

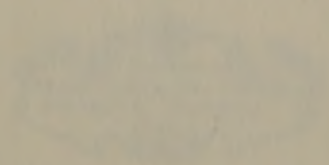
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Sesquicentennial in St.
Tammany

SESQUICENTENNIAL IN ST. TAMMANY

The Early Years of Georgetown,
Middletown, Mendocino, &
St. Tammany College, Louisiana



ADRIAN D. SCHWARTZ



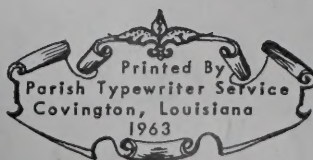
SESQUICENTENNIAL IN ST. TAMMANY

The Early Years of Covington,
Madisonville, Mandeville, &
Abita Springs, Louisiana



by

ADRIAN D. SCHWARTZ

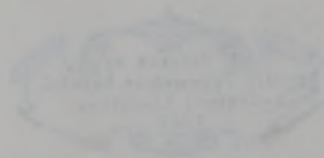


SESSQUICENTENNIAL IN ST. TAMMANY

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ADRIAN D. SCHWARTZ



SESQUICENTENNIAL IN ST. TAMMANY

THE EARLY YEARS OF

COVINGTON

MADISONVILLE

MANDEVILLE

ABITA SPRINGS

LOUISIANA

By

Adrian D. Schwartz,
Member, St. Tammany Bar

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PREFACE

The following pages are in a fragmentary way an attempt on the part of the writer to meet the request of the Sesquicentennial Council for a brief review of some of the historical facts which form the background against which the story of the years is told in this commemorative anniversary. Due to the exigencies of time and space there was no alternative left but to skim off at random from a massive amount of material long since accumulated some of the suggestive accounts which are scattered in this little brochure, and as such, it is humbly tendered to the reader.

THE AUTHOR

Covington, July, 1963

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SESQUICENTENNIAL

In

ST. TAMMANY

1813 - 1963

The question a school boy is likely to ask when he reaches the geographical grade, and one which the oldster who has been approached may be shy on the answer is, Where did St. Tammany Parish come from and who brought it here. For one who may be interested in historical "firsts" it may be safely said not long after the early Mardi Gras of 1699, when the explorers Iberville and Bienville, having established the first Louisiana colony at Biloxi in the name of King Louis XIV of France, and with it the name of Pontchartrain to the lake we know so well today, we may safely fix Discovery Day for St. Tammany as being some time during the last week of March 1699, and the location somewhere in the extreme south-east corner of the parish between Polecat Curve and Rabbit Island.

Inasmuch as it has been said the first 100 years are the hardest, and the longest, it being now 264 years as these lines are written since that period began, we might confine ourselves to the sesquicentennial article which is the subject of this report. In 1813 a full century had elapsed since the massacre in 1713 by the Colapissas, native St. Tammany Indian Tribe, of their neighbors, the Natchitoches, in their adjoining villages at Bayou Castain on Mandeville shore. At that time M. Delamothe was Acting Governor of the newly founded French colony which had been removed to Mobile but the Chevalier de St. Denys was now stationed at Biloxi, and with him was Andre Penicaut, ship carpenter and journalist, to whom we are indebted for an illuminating account of early Indian lore in this Parish.

From thence we come forward to the year 1763 when the bloody Seven Years War came to an end, by which France lost all her possessions in North America to England. For some twenty years afterwards up to the close of the American Revolution, the territory we live in was known as British West Florida, and the first settlers, under the reign of George III, established themselves along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain from Bayou La-combe to the Tangipahoa River. Meanwhile, the City of New Orleans, founded by Bienville, continued to grow and commerce between the southern and northern shores of the lake became a matter of course.

Shortly before the end of the Revolution a naval engagement off Mandeville took place between the British Warship West Florida and the Morris, American continental vessel, commanded by Captain William Pickles, ending in the capture of the British craft and its crew, which was brought in to New Orleans. There Galvez was now the Spanish Governor, Spain having taken over the possession of New Orleans from France at the time West Florida had been ceded to the British. It was after the surrender of Cornwallis that the Spanish Government decided to enter the Revolution on the side of the American colonies. Galvez raised an army in New Orleans and marched on Baton Rouge where the British Commander surrendered. Meanwhile, Captain Pickles, after his naval victory, returned to the north shore on October 16, 1779, and received the Oath of Allegiance from all the inhabitants there to the "Independent States of North America." However, by sundown the loyalty of these continental patriots had been automatically transferred by proclamation to Don Carlos of Spain.

Following the conclusion of peace between King George and his former colonies in 1783, the Spanish occupation of West Florida, which, for purposes of this narrative, extended from the Mississippi to Pearl River and from Lake Pontchartrain to the Thirty-

First Parallel, which forms the southern border of part of the State of Mississippi, took place at once and lasted for 31 years.

In 1783 Estevan Miro succeeded Galvez as Spanish Governor of Louisiana. He pursued a very liberal policy in encouraging early American settlers to locate themselves in these parts. During the last quarter of the 18th Century a great number of immigrant families moved in from the Atlantic Seaboard, whose stakes had formerly been in the Carolinas and northern Georgia. The eventful year 1803 having arrived, the territory of Louisiana extending from the Mississippi River to the Rockies was ceded by Napoleon to the United States. The section, however, between Pearl River and the Mississippi omitted from the treaty by design or otherwise, later became labeled as the "Florida Parishes" but continued for seven years under Spanish domination with its seat of government located at Pensacola, Florida.

Within that decade the population of Spanish West Florida, made up largely of hybrid American extraction, became increasingly dissatisfied with their foreign colonial government. A revolt by the planters in the Feliciana and Baton Rouge districts hatched during the summer of 1810 rapidly extended through the eastern section of the "Floridas," then consisting of St. Helena and St. Tammany, which embraced the present areas of this Parish plus Washington and a portion of Tangipahoa, covering in all a total area of approximately 1800 square miles, with a white population of about 2000.

On the night of September 24, 1810, the West Florida patriots, under the command of General Philemon Thomas, made a strategic attack on the fort at Baton Rouge and without loss of a man, imprisoned the garrison, costing the life of its gallant commander, Lt. Louis de Grand Pre. Following this, an independent "homespun" government, with Declaration of Independence, Constitution and all other democratic trimmings, was immediately set up at St. Francisville as the Capital under a legislature which lasted days. During that time

St. Tammany was known as the district of St. Ferdinand. On October 27, 1810, President Madison intervened by proclamation declaring West Florida a part of United States territory and directing William C.C. Claiborne, Governor of the Orleans territory, to proceed to St. Francisville, haul down the lone star flag of the infant republic, and raise the Stars and Stripes. This order was carried out by Colonel Leonard Covington from Natchez, in command of 400 Federal troops without bloodshed.

With the Florida Parishes now safely integrated in the United States and the boundaries of St. Tammany having been established by Governor Claiborne, it was not yet certain whether these parishes would remain allocated to Louisiana after admission to Statehood or be divided with the Mississippi territory on the Gulf Coast. This point was settled between Governor Claiborne and Governor Holmes of Mississippi, as one Governor to another, when the so-called Gulf Coast Parishes of Biloxi and Pascagoula were awarded to Mississippi.

We have to look backward now to the pioneering period which began in the vicinity of Madisonville and Covington, after the first years of the 1780's and Spanish grants were handed out munificently by Governor Miro to the settlers who sought them, particularly those whose sympathies had been with the Galvez invasion. Naturally, the most favored locations were along the lakeshore and Tchefuncte River, not unlike they are today, and from here we can view the first makings of Madisonville.

COVINGTON, MADISONVILLE, MANDEVILLE, ABITA SPRINGS THROUGHOUT THE 19TH CENTURY

From Mobile, Alabama, Joseph Batiste Baham and his sons arrived and were awarded great tracts of forest lands in 1600-acre lots bordering on the banks of the Tchefuncte, and widow Catalina Montlemar Badon, also from Mobile, in 1785 received a like grant of 1600 acres on the Tchefuncte, west of Covington.

After the admission of Louisiana into Statehood in 1812, a steady influx of settlers filtered in from New Orleans, which had suddenly begun to increase by the arrivals of English-speaking Americans from the Atlantic states. Some of these prospectors looking for outlets in trade and commerce in the newly growing upper part of New Orleans soon to become known as the "American section" of the city, established themselves there but looked forward with longing eyes on the rich Louisiana forests to the north shore of the lake. Most of these early fortune seekers travelled mainly from Philadelphia and different parts of New England. They arrived generally by the flatboat route on the Mississippi, and from this source came forth the sturdy and the strong, many of whose names are now graven on the fore front in the early annals of St. Tammany.

Madisonville was laid out by the Bahams according to a plan of McCarty, surveyor, in 1814. As soon as Louisiana reached Statehood the Federal Government fixed attention on Madisonville, it being the only doorway by which New Orleans could be reached from the great American wilderness from which the Nation was then emerging.

In 1813 Brackenbridge, in his travels, reports that United States troops had built on the south bank of the little Bogue Falaya River, facing the old Military Road, "an elegant range of barrack and officers' houses sufficient for a regiment of men."

From the time the Bahams established themselves on the Tchefuncte they engaged in boat building, principally of the schooner type, and the production of naval stores. At the time the barracks were built a Navy Yard was also set up on the Tchefuncte River two miles above Madisonville, and the keel for a 42-gun flat bottom frigate, to be known as the Pontchartrain, was laid intended for the defense of the lake and New Orleans, the time having come when we were engaged in another war with England, and as we were

soon to learn, the American forces had not made too much progress. When Jackson arrived at Madisonville two years later he found the Navy had abandoned work on the Pontchartrain, which at the time he so badly needed.

In 1813 the first contracts with the Postmaster General were made for the transfer of mail across the lake and in 1814 William Wharton Collins, an old sea captain from Philadelphia, was awarded one such contract for \$900.00 a year. He operated a packet line between Madisonville and the old Spanish Fort at New Orleans. At that time the first Post Office was established at Madisonville, which became known as the Oak Tree Post Office, and if a ponderous live oak on the Tchefuncte shore has been spared it should still mark the spot. Madisonville unofficially took its name from President Madison, no doubt on the suggestion of Governor Claiborne, immediately after the West Florida rebellion ended.

In 1812 James Tate, previously appointed Parish Judge by Claiborne, was sworn in by Justice Francis X. Martin as the first representative from St. Tammany Parish and served in the Legislature at its 1813 session. In that session the first Police Jury for the Parish was established with powers to provide local government including ferries and bridges. In that year also the Legislature commissioned Robert Badon, Thomas Spell, Benjamin Howard, Joseph Coutrer and Benjamin Bickham to locate a site and build a court house and jail within three miles of the center of the Parish, limiting the cost to \$800.00. These five gentlemen were the first police jurors of the Parish and the location was fixed beyond Bogue Chitto River at a spot called Enon, in present-day Washington Parish.

With roads, mail routes and ferry crossings being provided for, the outlook for pioneering became more attractive. On February 8, 1813 Jesse R. Jones, a native of Virginia, and destined to become a near centenarian public figure in this Parish, formed a partnership with Jonathan Gilmore at Madisonville. Their

initial capital was \$519.00. When the business was liquidated between the parties five years later, despite the fortunes of war, they each took a declared dividend of \$20,000.

In 1803 Captain William Wharton Collins staked off for himself some 600 acres just below the Badon Plantation. In 1805 Robert Badon married Maria Wharton Collins and, a little later, Henry Badon married Lydia Wharton Collins, both of whom were sisters of Captain Collins. Henry Badon in 1806 acquired the land opposite his mother's estate between the Tchefuncte and Bogue Falaya Rivers and here was located one of the first ferries, long referred to as "Old Landing," which brought the East and West banks of these two rivers together. In 1803 Jacques Dreux, a New Orleans creole, received a Spanish grant on the Bogue Falaya described as "forty arpents by forty arpents deep." Dreux had nursed the idea of establishing a town in the fork between the two rivers, which he called the town of St. James, and along with James Tate, Parish Judge, Daniel Edwards, Nathan McGehee and Mr. Brooks, they established homes on the Bogue Falaya in the vicinity of the present State Park.

On May 16, 1813, Dreux sold his town with its claim to four citizens to John Wharton Collins, a young New Orleans merchant, for the sum of \$2300. Some time in 1810, before West Florida was ceded, Collins had also staked a claim of his own with the Spanish government to all the land lying between the Tchefuncte and his Dreux purchase and which, taken together, constitute the major portion of the Covington area today. On July 4, 1813, John Wharton Collins presented a map to Judge Tate which bore no authorship but which, to all intents, must have been either prepared or revised by General David D. Morgan of Madisonville, afterwards Surveyor General of the State and also the first State Senator from this Parish and, at the time, very active in territorial matters. Of course, this map with all the others which subsequently followed as adjuncts under the original dedication may be said to be as hopelessly lost

as the second book of Livy. General Morgan was himself the owner of a large tract of land below the Badons. Inscribed on the map was this legend:

A plan of a portion of land, laid out under the title of the Division of St. John of Wharton, founded on the Fourth day of July, 1813, and humbly dedicated to the late Thomas Jefferson, and thereby reserving to purchasers of lots the right in common of all streets, alleys, water courses and timber trees that are within the plan, and reserving to himself the privilege of extending any new square, and forming new ones, according to said plan.

Along with the founder of Wharton were a group of inhabitants from Madisonville, including Jesse R. Jones and Jonathan Gilmore, who purchased the first lots at the corner of Portsmouth and New Hampshire Streets and which, for a century, were graced by the lovely Virginia colonial home of Judge Jesse R. Jones. Accompanying the dedication party was Black Tom, Collins' negro slave, who drove an ox cart with a load of iron surveyor's stakes. He trudged down the trail back to Old Landing following the founding party on their mounts and with shot guns slung across their shoulders at the end of that long summer day when the 37th year of American independence was first celebrated in Covington by John Wharton Collins of Philadelphia.

Collins then operated a general mercantile establishment on Magazine Street, not far below the plantation of James Francis Enoul Livaudais, head of that wealthy and powerful family in New Orleans of his day. In 1813 Collins was one of the principal supply houses for Jones and Gilmore, and if anyone should be interested in price current of those days he will find by examining the account books of that ancient firm for the week following July 4, 1813 that whiskey sold at 38¢ a gallon, coffee at 23¢ and sugar at 9¢, and that there was a goodly market for gun powder, bar lead and Paiste Boards, which, to you reader, is playing

cards at 10¢ a deck at the time, and it must not be overlooked there was some demand for Bibles, spelling books and fiddle cords.

In the face of all this the situation in what was called Jimmy Madison's War with England took on a more serious turn. Governor Claiborne's concern over the St. Tammany section became more acute as the war entered its second year. On September 8, 1813, he circularized all colonels of the State Militia.

The war with the Creek Indians assumes a serious aspect. A fort 25 miles from Mobile has been taken and 350 men, women and children cruelly massacred. It is confidently reported that many slaves have escaped their masters, and it is feared the Choctaws, if they have not already, will soon become hostile.

That same day he wrote Colonel Benjamin Morgan: I request you to have the goodness to engage a vessel to be sufficiently large in addition to other cargo to take on board three horses. You will also cause to be purchased on account of the state in the course of this day 100 pounds of powder and 400 pounds of lead, together with 100 stand of muskets and a case of flints, for which I will give you an order this evening which I desire to ship for Madisonville. I inclose you a check for \$180 which you will enter to the credit of the state.

On September 10, 1813, he wrote General Thomas: I set out for Madisonville tomorrow, and will endeavor previous to my return to visit the Parish. We are confronted by dangers and we must unite our past efforts to place the militia on the best possible footing.

The name St. Tammany which Claiborne applied to the fourth of the Florida Parishes he had recently created was for that of a Delaware Indian Chief once regarded highly in the Atlantic states for his affability towards the whites, a suggestion which the Governor may

have intended as a hint to our native tribesmen. A secret political society had already been formed in New York having an Indian rite which was called "Tammany." It also had a rule of conferring the lodge honor of Grand Sachem on the President of the United States, and, in 1810, President Madison was selected for that distinction, and the use of that name may also have seemed timely.

Meanwhile, the war clouds were lowering daily and throughout Madisonville and Wharton business matters had come to a practical standstill for the inhabitants. On November 28, 1814, General Jackson with his five mounted aides, having left Mobile a week before, arrived at Ford's Fort on the banks of Pearl River north of present-day Bogalusa. Picking their way along sinuous trails and swimming their horses across many a swollen creek, the party arrived at Wharton on November 29th. Major Tatum, the General's topographical aide, described Wharton as

"a small, new town containing but a few ordinary buildings. It is the seat of justice for the county (Parish) in which it stands and is situated in the head of navigation on the bank of the creek. Sloops and schooners ply between this place and the bridge on Bayou St. John of New Orleans. It is said to be 30 miles by water to St. John."

From Wharton, Jackson proceeded to Madisonville and halted for the night. On November 30th they boarded Captain William Wharton Collins' mail packet and sailed across the lake to Fort St. John, where they arrived at 8 P.M. that evening. The Major, in his diary, describes Madisonville

"as being situated on the West bank of the Tchefuncte River about two miles from its junction with Lake Pontchartrain. The town is small and indifferently important. It lies about two miles also from the Navy Yard. The only importance that can be attached

to this place is its advantageous situation as a depot for country produce destined for New Orleans and also because of its being the most advantageous place of landing for all travellers from New Orleans, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mobile and the back parts of Georgia."

About that time General David D. Morgan of Madisonville had been appointed Brigadier General of the Louisiana State Militia, being put second in command to General Jackson of the 7th United States Military District. Thereafter, in December, John Wharton Collins, still in New Orleans, and Renez Baham, a leading figure in Madisonville, became volunteers in the Militia Under Morgan and each was given the rank of Captain.

THE ROMANTIC HOUSE OF ARGYLL

Being engaged in the effort to provide an account of the founding years for the Sesqui-centennial of Madisonville and Covington, it would seem appropriate at this point to recall something of the antecedents of John Wharton Collins, father of the City of Covington, which it has been seen, he originally dedicated as Wharton.

In Great Queen Street, London, during the reign of William and Mary, stood a massive structure called Dover House, where Mary Wharton, daughter and heiress of the late George Wharton, Esquire, Warden of the Mint, resided with her mother. Mary was in her minority and a ward of the celebrated Whig Statesman, Thomas Marquis of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Lord Privy Seal. Not only was she possessed of great personal beauty but of an income of 1500 pounds annually, which could have only added to her attractiveness. One young Londoner soon to become aware of this was Captain James Campbell, fourth son of Archibald, Ninth Earl of Argyll, who, along with fellow officers in King William's Army, Sir Johnstone, Bart, and Lieutenant Archibald Montgomerie, nephew of the Earl of Ellington, had just returned

from Ireland where they had seen action in the Battle of the Boyne. For five years following that battle Captain Campbell had been confined in Edinburgh Castle, and now on November 14, 1690, ten years before the French first hobnobbed with the Indians in St. Tammany, he was back in London and Mary Wharton was still at Dover House. The scene moves fast. With the assistance of Johnstone and Montgomerie, according to tradition, James and Mary apparently eloped and were married according to the rite of the Church of England. The Marquis of Wharton viewed it in another light and induced the King to offer a reward for the capture of Campbell and his confederates. Campbell and Montgomerie escaped into Scotland. Sir John Johnstone was not so fortunate. He was arrested. An extract from "The Scots Peerage," preserved in Inveraray Castle, Argyll, Scotland, gives us the official version of the affair:

"James Campbell, of Burnbank and Boquhan; educated at Glasgow University, was, on the 17th May 1685, confined in Edinburgh Castle that he might not join his father. On 14 November 1690, he, with the assistance of Archibald Montgomerie and Sir John Johnstone, of Caskieben, in Aberdeenshire, Bart., forcible carried off and married Mary, daughter of Sir George Wharton, a girl of thirteen, with an estate of 1500 pounds per annum, from her mother's house in London. The marriage was annulled by Act of Parliament, and Sir John Johnstone was executed at Tyburn for being concerned in this outrage. Mr. Campbell escaped, was a captain of Dragoons, afterwards attained the rank of Colonel, and was elected Member of Parliament for Renfrew 1699-1702."

There seemed to have been nothing lacking in Campbell's social prestige, according to the record, but the Marquis must have had simply some other plans, no doubt politically inspired, for his niece's hand.

In describing this able but unprincipled

English Peer, the historian Macauley has left us a permanent portrait which easily characterizes Thomas, Fifth Lord Wharton,

"there was a single tie which he respected. The falsest of mankind in all relations but one, he was the truest of Whigs. The religious tenets of his family (Calvinistic) he had early renounced with contempt; but to the politics of his family he steadfastly adhered through all the temptations and dangers of half a century."

Mrs. Mary Campbell, of course, following the annulment by Parliament, resumed her maiden name, Wharton, and in August, 1691, her son was born. She might have preferred to call him James, but, to please her uncle, named him Thomas, after the Marquis.

Thomas Campbell, or Wharton, if you will received a liberal education under the patronage of his kinsman, the Marquis, and was ordained in the Anglican Church. His first wife died. In 1730 he married a Miss Collins, and was given the living of St. Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, Scotland, where, on June 12, 1732, his wife gave birth to a son, Thomas, and later to a daughter, Sarah.

When Thomas was 14 both his father and mother fell under the doom of the infamous "Butcher Duke" of Cumberland, and were among the 2000 Scotsmen slaughtered on the moors in the historic Battle of Culloden, which sealed the fate of the Stuart cause in England. The two children who survived were cared for by their father's half sister, Miss Mary Campbell. In 1794, through the influence of General Fletcher of Saltoun, closely connected with the Campbells, young Thomas received the commission of cornet in a cavalry regiment, which in 1750, was ordered to India. There he remained for eight years where he was present at the "Defense of Arcot," the capital of the Karnatic, and in 1756-57 was at "Budge-Budge" "Port William," "Calcutta" and "Hoogly," and in June 1757, at Plassy, where Lord Clive,

with 3000 men defeated Mear Jaffier with 40,000 infantry and 15,000 cavalry.

In 1758 Cornet Wharton returned to Scotland. In the spring of 1759 Colonel George Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield and Governor of Gibraltar, organized a regiment of dragoons, and Cornet Wharton, through the influence of General Fletcher, was commissioned as ensign in the new corps. In June the regiment was ordered to Hanover to join the English-Hanoverian Army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

On August 1, 1759, the Battle of Minden was fought in the Kingdom of Hanover. The allies were commanded by Prince Ferdinand and Lord George Sackville. Their enemy, the French, by Marshal d'Augvillers. Lord Sackville commanded the cavalry on that day, with orders that he withhold action until he received a signal from the Prince, but owing either to negligence or treachery, he failed to heed the signal when given. Elliott, bursting with impatience, sent an orderly to Sackville for orders to move forward, but to no result. The bold colonel could wait no longer. Rising in the stirrups, he waved his sword and shouted, "Forward, Dragoons." Forward they went and beat the enemy back at all points, leaving victory that day perched on the banner of St. George. Now a word for Ensign Wharton. Having distinguished himself with bravery, Prince Ferdinand promoted him to lieutenant while still on the field. When the regiment returned to England it was personally received and applauded by King George II. Sackville was court martialed and dismissed from the service.

In 1762, the regiment was ordered to Cuba and took part in the siege of Havana. Upon its return, George III was then on the throne and he inquired of Colonel Elliott what reward he could bestow on such brave men. Elliott replied he would be proud to have the name "Royal" prefixed to their regiment. This modest request was granted and the Royal Dragoons became justly considered one of the finest cavalry troops in Europe of its day.

Now a pathetic interlude in the life of young warrior Wharton which deserves to be retold.

It appears that upon return of his regiment from Hanover, Lieutenant Wharton was joined by his sister Sarah, whose beauty attracted the notice of the captain of his company, a brave but thoroughly unprincipled man. She fell a victim to his wiles, and having retired to a retreat in a quiet English village, wrote to her brother giving an account of the affair and the name of her betrayer. But Wharton already had sailed for Cuba before the letter reached London, and it was not delivered until his return a year later. Meanwhile, his sister had died. On learning of all this, he immediately challenged her betrayer to mortal combat. The duel took place at Ipswich, and ended in the ignoble captain's death.

Instead of making a clean breast of the whole affair, Lieutenant Wharton fled to Ireland, and from there addressed letters to General Fletcher and Colonel Elliott, stating the facts of the case. These gentlemen succeeded in having the matter of the duel passed over, but Lieutenant Wharton was requested to resign his commission, which he did. General Fletcher sent him money and letters of introduction to the Governor of the Island of St. Christopher in the West Indies. Mr. Wharton set sail from Cork in 1763, and arrived at the Island that summer. He was favorably received by the Governor, who made him his private secretary. He remained there until 1767, when he accompanied the Governor, who was on his way to England, as far as Philadelphia.

After arriving at Philadelphia Wharton took another step to isolate himself from the past by assuming the name of Collins (his mother's maiden name) in addition to that of Wharton. He soon obtained a clerkship in the Philadelphia Customhouse, which he held until 1775. In 1772-73 he met Miss Mary Hinton, daughter of a retired English naval officer, Captain John Hinton of Baltimore, and Sarah Sharswood of Philadelphia. Mr. Collins and Miss Hinton were married in St. Paul's Church on June 25, 1773, by Reverend William White, D.D.

afterwards first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania.

In August, 1775, General Thomas Mifflin assumed the office of Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army, and Mr. Collins, who was personally acquainted with the General, was appointed Chief Clerk in his department, and later to the same post in the Adjutant's office. The nemesis of ill-luck which had slowed down since the duel at Ipswich now stepped up, and misfortune again overtook him.

In the spring of 1775, following that early American custom of becoming a "joiner," he had imprudently joined an association of Tories whose avowed purpose was to betray Philadelphia into the hands of the British. This plan had been kept from all but a few of the leaders. When Collins discovered their design, he withdrew. Subsequently, the organization was betrayed by one of its members, Isaac Atwood, a wool comber, July 11, 1776. Atwood attempted to implicate Collins in the plot but there was no evidence which the Philadelphia Safety Commission found that warranted an arrest. However, a still more serious charge was brought against him in 1777. It seems that a conspiracy had been formed by one James Molesworth, a British officer, whereby all guns on Fort Island were to be spiked, the British fleet brought up the Delaware and all the ferries destroyed. The following letter implicated Mr. Collins in the affair:

"Pen War Office
March 31, 1777

Sir: We have lately discovered a dangerous plot against this State for which a certain Molesworth, who had a lieutenant's commission under General Howe, was this day executed. He has accused the following persons of being concerned in it, viz: Luke Caton, alias Warren, William Shepherd, Thomas W. Collins, lately a clerk under General Mifflin, and Jonathan Henry Smith, who passes under the denomination of 'Colonel Smith' and is frequently seen about Bound Brook to Brunswick by his Excellency

General Washington and General Howe. We do request that you give all necessary orders for apprehending them. We have sent Captain Stayner to your office with orders to use all his best endeavors to apprehend them. He is furnished with the best descriptions of their persons he can obtain. By Order of the Board of War, Directed to General Lincoln."

With his usual train of ill luck, Thomas Wharton Collins was the only one captured, and he was arrested while quietly performing his duties in the Adjutant General's office at Morristown, New Jersey. He immediately protested his innocence in a memorial to George Washington, but the letter never got behind the files of the War Department in Philadelphia. Collins was unjustly detained as a prisoner there until the fall of 1788, when upon a visit to Washington to that city, Mrs. Collins laid her husband's story before the General and he immediately ordered his release, reappointing him to the Adjutant's office. He enjoyed the friendship of the American Commander until his death.

There were seven children born to Thomas Wharton and Mary Hinton in Philadelphia. Sarah W. Gibson, 1774, Thomas W., 1776, William W., 1778, Martha W. Robertson, 1780, Maria W. Badon, 1784, Lydia W. Badon, 1786, and John Wharton, "Father of Covington," 1788.

The year John was born the Collins removed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mr. Collins found employment in the British Naval Office at that port but died two years later after an eventful life of 58 years. Mrs. Collins returned to New York and lived there until her death in 1793. In that year her oldest daughter, Sarah, married William Gibson, a well-to-do merchant, and John, then five years, fell under their protection. William Wharton Collins, hitherto referred to, entered the British Merchant Marine at an early age and from mate became captain of a sailing vessel plying between Liverpool, New York and New Orleans.

Collins followed his older brother, Captain Collins, and his sisters to New Orleans while still in his teens. Being possessed of a strong commercial drive it was not long before he established himself in business in the newly growing American section. Collins reached 21 in the summer of 1809. In the year of his majority there appeared on the scene a stranger from quite a different world and who had much, if not everything, to do with the shaping of future events. She was Marie Elizabeth Tabiteau, barely 15, born in the Parish of Jeremie, St. Domingo. She was under the care of her uncle, Senor Nicholas Labiche and a refugee from the bloody insurrection of the negroes in Santo Domingo, which had been inspired by the Spanish government as a reprisal for Napoleon's atrocities in Spain. This lovely little French emigre had been placed under the protection of Senor Livaudais and his wife, Celeste Marigny Livaudais, in their plantation home in New Orleans on the river. A romance soon flourished along with business for this young couple and a wedding was planned for September 19, 1811, at the St. Louis Cathedral. Two days prior to the ceremony a marriage dowry was signed between Collins and his future bride and in which Senor Livaudais appeared and made a nuptial present to her of a house and grounds in his new division of Race Street and, as a further "testimonial of his satisfaction at the union," agreed to pay Collins the sum of \$2000 as a part of Marie's dowry, all done in the sumptuous drawing room of the Livaudais home in the presence of his entire family. Their marriage was celebrated by Pere Antonio de Sedella in the St. Louis Cathedral. On June 23, 1812, their son Thomas Wharton Collins was born and christened at the Cathedral, Senor Livaudais and his wife, Marie Celeste Marigny, who was a sister of Bernard P. Marigny, being the godparents.

ST. TAMMANY
Staging Ground for
British Landing at New Orleans

Nowhere in Louisiana can there be found a less hospitable piece of terrain than the stretch of coastal marsh six miles long which is crossed by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad between the Rigolets and East Pearl River, separating St. Tammany from the State of Mississippi. It is called Pearl River Island. No Indian except in flight ever would have set foot on the place. Bienville and some of his men tried it in August, 1799, in search of fresh drinking water, but the mosquitoes attacked them with such ferocity the French fled leaving the bulk of their provisions, which consisted of a sack of peas, as a *carte de visite*. They named the place *Isle des Pois*. A whistle stop there now is called English Lookout, and which recalls that in mid-December of 1814 the English were temporarily back at their old stand in former West Florida, this time with an eye on New Orleans.

Jackson had no more than reached the town when word came through that a British fleet bearing a powerful landing force was already in Gulf waters headed for the Lake to make a backdoor entry into New Orleans, since it was well known to both sides that the forts below, such as they were, aided by the winds and current from the North, would prevent the passage of their heavy sailing craft upstream.

Lieutenant Catesby Ap Jones commanded in Lake Borgne waters the only defense the Americans had to guard the Rigolets entrance to Lake Pontchartrain against the enemy. He had this to do with an infantile squadron of five gunboats of the cutter type, carrying in all twenty-three guns and about 200 men. By December 13th the British fleet was riding off the Chadeleur Reefs. They decided at once to rid Lake Borgne of its defenders and sent some of the lightest draft vessels they had to overcome them, but even these were ineffective in those shallow waters. The American turned sternmost and disappeared leaving their pur-

suers grounded in the shallows. According to one of the British officers:

To permit them to remain in the hands of the enemy, however, would be fatal, because as long as they commanded the navigation of the Lake, no boats could venture to cross. It was, therefore, determined at all hazards and at any expense to take them, and since our lightest craft could not float where they sailed a flotilla of launches and ship's barges was got ready for the purpose.

The British loaded 1200 of their hardened marines into some 45 or 50 open boats, most of which carried a small mortar or coronade, at the bow. Commanded by Captain Lockier, a capable officer, they rowed toward the Rigolets until they came in sight of Captain Jones' cutters moored fore and aft with their broadsides pointing at them. It was now dinner time and the attackers decided to keep out of range long enough to finish their meal. Then the wind and tide suddenly changed and they were made dependent on oars alone as they pulled forward in one lengthy line. As soon as they came within range of Jones' guns they were raked with volley after volley. Some of their boats were sunk and many of their men were killed or wounded that gusty winter day. The engagement continued in this fashion for an hour when the enemy succeeded in closing in with the Americans, and the invaders found their losses had been expendable.

THE CALL TO VICTORY

It is now December 23rd. Three weeks have elapsed since Old Hickory rode into New Orleans from his sail across the Lake. The news of the British advance on the city had spread in all directions, and as Claiborne remarked, "the men from St. Tammany and St. Helena were not the last to answer the call of their country." And answers to the call came quickly from all sides to the defense. The 7th Regiment of the U. S. Regulars which had been stationed at the Madisonville Navy Yard for the ostensible purpose of intercepting a back

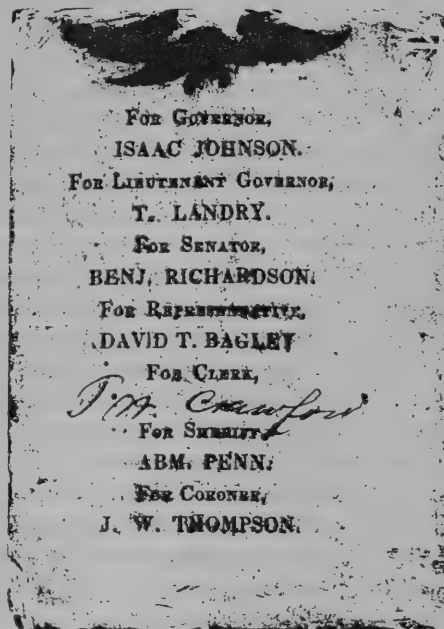
door move from the British, had been recalled to New Orleans to join the 44th U.S. Regulars, Beale's Rifles, the Tennessee Riflemen, who had lately arrived down the river, the Choctaw Scouts from St. Tammany, and others. (1) Added to these there were also mustered into the 12th and 13th Regiments of the Louisiana Militia at Royal Street headquarters:

1. Captain Thomas Bickham's Company, 15 officers, 107 men, from St. Tammany and St. Helena, under the command of Major McWright.
2. Captain William Bickham's Company from St. Tammany and St. Helena, 82 officers and men, under the command of Colonel Thomas C. Warner.
3. Previously the Company of Captain John K. Goff had been mustered on September 24th, consisting of 65 officers and men, under the command of Colonel Alex de Clouet.

The names of those first St. Tammany heroes still survive in their many descendants in these parts or otherwise must be searched for in the rolls of the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

(1) J.S. Basset Life of Andrew Jackson,
Pg. 146-7

Below is reproduced in its actual size ballot hand-printed in Covington which was cast in the general election following the adoption of the State Constitution in 1845.



Herewith is submitted receipt for state taxes which were due on all the property owned by John W. Collins in the Parish of St. Tammany for the year 1816. The total direct taxes levied on the Parish by the State of Louisiana for that year was \$500.

1816
RECEIVED this *25th* day of *August* 18*18*,
from *John W. Collins* — the sum of *Two dollar*
and four cents for the Direct Tax of 1816, upon the property of
John W. Collins — in the Parish of *St. Tammany*
in the fourth collection district in the State of Louisiana.
Benjamin Lock
Collector for the fourth Collection
District of Louisiana.

THE TAKE-OFF FROM PEARL ISLAND TO BAYOU BIENVENUE

Following the scene of naval action just related there occurred off the Rigolets at the entrance to Lake Borgne a naval landing little thought of in terms of St. Tammany terrain. The week previous to their reaching the Chantaleur Reefs, an Armada of fifty British vessels, consisting of fighting ships and transports carrying 12,000 men was moving with all sails spread through balmy Cuban waters headed for that wretched Pearl, or Pine Island. American guns had been silenced but not so Louisiana weather. Relentless December wind and rain pounded the invaders exposed on deck waiting to be transferred to the landing launches, while they watched their ships one after another run fast aground in the shallows of Lake Borgne.

A British officer tells that after hours of heart-breaking exposure they were landed cramped and numb in this howling marsh; that there existed only one spot of firm ground there on which grew a few stunted pines. The rest of the place was just frozen bog abounding in dormant alligators, which in many cases were their only foothold. The wind changed to an icy blast as night closed in. Without tents or fuel, morning found many frozen in death.

For a full week hardy British tars from the fleet rowed back and forth to the island with men and supplies, assembling forces. This meant the rowing of 6,000 men fifteen miles down to Bayou Bienvenue to begin the assault on New Orleans.

On December 22nd General Kean reviewed his army shivering in the marshes. Realizing he had only sufficient landing craft to transfer one-third of his troops at a time, the general acting as he believed under the greatest secrecy and with no knowledge of his presence by the Americans, risked dividing his strength into three battalions as advance units. The regiments appointed to this service were the 4th, 85th and 95th, and were placed under

the command of Colonel Thornton, a courageous officer, who on the morning of January 8th was destined to fall in the engagement with the American troops under General David B. Morgan of Madisonville. The remainder of the English forces on the island was arranged into two brigades with what light artillery and other equipment they could conveniently assemble. Last to reach the island were a company of dragoons with harness and saddles but no horses. Their mounts they expected to gather from the neighboring farms below New Orleans when they were reached. Meanwhile the dragoons were assigned as a bodyguard to the General.

Boats were brought in from all quarters, and ammunition and supplies were carefully waterproofed. On the morning of the 23rd, under drenching St. Tammany skies, the first contingent of 1600 men was crammed into the light sailing vessels, huddled over charcoal pans when they embarked for Bayou Bienvenue and later for pitiful defeat. Says Subaltern Glieg in his account:

"No man appeared to regard the present while everyone looked forward to the future. From the General down to the youngest drumboy, a confident anticipation of success seemed to pervade all ranks, and in the hope of ample reward in store for them the toils and grievances of the moment were forgotten."

Thus the alleged war cry of the red coats "For beauty and booty" is well supported by the word of that officer himself. He states that while they were on the island awaiting embarkation, several Americans posing as deserters entertained them with accounts of the alarm in New Orleans and its lack of defenses; that the best inhabitants had long ago left, leaving their wealth behind, and those remaining were ready to capitulate. Writes the same subaltern:

"The same persons likewise dilated upon the wealth and importance of the town, upon the large quantities of government stores there collected, and the

rich booty which would reward its capture, subjects well calculated to tickle the fancy of the invaders in the expectation of so great a recompense."

This fine spun canard which the British fatefully swallowed was matched only by the one pulled by Bienville on Captain Bond at English turn on the Mississippi River 115 years before.

Below is pictured a typical wild marsh bayou which falls into the lake below Madisonville. These areas are fast disappearing under the strides taken by modern drainage engineering.



FIRST NEWS FROM CHALMETTE

Darkness had long settled that chilly Saturday night of January 7, 1815 about the forest hamlets of Wharton and Madisonville. Not a candle flickered in any cabin. Most of the men from there who had fallen in behind Jackson were now shivering in the frosty silence below New Orleans. There were watchers, however, at Captain Collins' landing when a young rider mounted on a fiery Georgia pony dashed up to the wharf. He was Captain Sam Dale, riding since New Year's Day from Hawkins Creek Agency with despatches from Washington for General Jackson, orders that must be in the Commander's hands by dawn. He was taken aboard the packet and a strong north wind landed him at Spanish Fort just as daylight was breaking on the Lake. Quartermaster-General Piatt took charge of his pony, Paddy, and supplied him with a fresh mount and an orderly to guide him to headquarters in Royal Street. There he learned that Jackson had already gone out to meet the enemy. Galloping down the river road he could hear the roar of cannon as he approached Jackson's position. The fight was on in full fury when he handed in his despatches. The General glanced at them and remarked glumly, "They are always too late at Washington." With that, Dale turned over his horse to the orderly and rushed with his rifle to the entrenchment.

After the British retired following the bloody engagement, Jackson was so impressed by the ride Dale had made that he dismissed him at once with orders that he should be first to bring news of victory to the outside world. On reaching the Lake he found Paddy and the sailing vessel waiting for him, but still too hurried to give Colonel Sparks at Spanish Fort an account of what happened that morning. The account which Dale was prepared to give to the world was probably first heard by the boys on the sailing packet and no doubt was as fresh as that which is quoted in J. F. H. Claiborne's history of Sam Dale. "There was," he said, "a mutual pause; for several minutes an awful stillness prevailed; not a gun was

discharged, not a shot was heard. The British slowly reformed for the third time and advanced to the assault. And then there burst forth along our whole line a blaze of fire, a crash of steel, arms and a deafening roar of cannon, and when the dim smoke rolled away, the field was covered with the fallen, the British columns shattered and broken were in retreat, not flying ingloriously but staggering back, like men reeling under unexpected and overpowering blows."

Immediately on reaching the Madisonville landing he went off in a gallop for Colonel Winchester's headquarters at Mobile, where he arrived on the third day following the battle. (1)



THE CANOE FIGHT

(1) Franklin L. Riley, Ph.D., Professor of History University of Mississippi, writes in 1900: "One of the most remarkable feats of bravery in the history of the Southwest was the celebrated canoe fight which occurred (1813) on the Alabama River. In this fight three men in a frail dugout attacked and killed nine Indian warriors in a large canoe. The leader of the attacking party was General Sam Dale, the daring frontiersman, whose services in war and in peace have won for him an honored place in the history of Mississippi." *

*Claiborne's Mississippi, pp. 514-515; Claiborne's Life of Sam Dale; Hamilton's Colonial Mobile, pp. 343, 370, 371.

FROM WHARTON TO COVINGTON

The terrific and bitter winter 1814-15 which ended the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans is now over. John Wharton Collins having disposed of his commercial interests in New Orleans came to reside in the town he founded two years before, a veteran of the campaign in which he served as Captain under General Morgan's militia on the West bank of New Orleans, but now broken in health from exposure in the wretched camps of those days. His neighbor and compatriot, Colonel Jesse R. Jones, in a state of physical soundness which he enjoyed for more than one generation, had established his business on the West side of Columbia Street facing the Bogue Falaya, and Collins selected for himself a site on the nearest approach to the river on the East side of Columbia Street.

With the return of peace the avenues of commerce and settlement opened up strongly in the village of Wharton but were restricted to that division which had been dedicated as St. John. The Divisions of St. Ann, St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. George, St. William and St. Albert were a neat way Collins had of preserving the family namesakes and which was only disclosed after his death. There were included in subsequent plans the Divisions of McFarlane, Gibson and Gilmore. Also located in those once senatorial groves were sections dedicated to Gratitude and Hospitality, also Good Government. The ever-returning seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter were likewise honored as building sites. Kemper and Florida Streets, which were originally named in the St. John Division, recall the days when Reuben Kemper and his brothers as early as 1806 led an insurrection against the Spanish Government in West Florida.

Wharton had already become a focal point for planters and traders throughout the entire region, including the adjacent Mississippi counties on the North. Darby in his "Travels" 1816 writes of such staples as "Cotton, beef, neat, pork, hides, dairy cheese, lumber, pitch, tar and lime, and many other articles, including

all kinds of poultry" being shipped from here to the New Orleans market.

The position which Collins and his family affiliates occupied was a strategic one. Between them they owned or controlled all lands west of both rivers between Covington and Madisonville, ferry privileges included. With many activities following the return of peace in 1815 there were likely to be repercussions from the increasing number of competitors who were setting up shop in the infant town.

Tate was succeeded in the Legislature in 1814 by Samuel Harper, and following him in 1816 came the keen-witted and aggressive Jesse R. Jones, then one year Collins senior, but who still had 63 years ahead of him with-in which to enjoy the reward of his ambitions, and at the same session St. Tammany and sister Parish St. Helena were represented in the State Senate by one Champnes or Champney Terry, as he was called. In the first state senatorial election he succeeded in unseating James C. Bushnell and being sworn in in his stead. Bushnell was a friend of Collins and his associates. Collins had likewise a friend in the person of Reuben Kemper for whom Collins had named a street, and was now in the Senate from the Attakapas district. Both Terry and Kemper had been victims of each other's abuse and no doubt after ten years they still entertained unpleasant opinions of each other.

The time was nearing when the new Parish of Washington would be set up out of St. Tammany and Collins had his eye fixed on Wharton as the new Parish seat for St. Tammany. To Collins it offered prestige. To the opposition it could only signalize his arrogance. By the beginning of 1816 there was enough ferment in village politics to brew strong discontent against the Collins faction. The product was raw-American and as potent as any "run-off" from William Bagley's still, the first coroner to be appointed for St. Tammany, but more of this later on. On February 28, 1816 a bill was introduced in the Louisiana

House "To change the name of the Town of Wharton to that of Covington, and for regulating the police of said Town." It was a duplicate of the first charter of St. Francisville passed three years before. The session was a light one and the bill sailed through with Jesse R. Jones, representative, Collins' next door neighbor looking on. On March 7th it was reported in the Senate and similarly expedited, but before a final vote was taken Senator Kemper read a letter from Mr. Collins urging that the creation of a board of trustees with power to build streets and levy taxes was most desirable, but that he protested against that part of the bill which sought to have the worthy name of Wharton erased from the public dedication he had made, as being "frivolous and in violation of his rights as a citizen." (1)

Vindictive Champney Terry replied by producing a petition said to have been signed by different inhabitants of Wharton, seeking to have the place incorporated and the name changed to Covington, as being "in conformity with the desires and best interests of the citizens of St. Tammany in general." The measure passed at once, and was enacted into law March 11, 1816. The effect of this village coup d'etat on Collins' morale was destructive. The act of incorporation like most of its kind in those days was quite brief. A board of five "trustees" was provided for. Six days work annually was exacted from all male citizens between 16 and 60 for clearing and repairing the streets, and a tax of \$1 per thousand on land and slaves was authorized. The offices of secretary and tax collector were provided for.

The high-handed act of the Legislature in divesting the town of the family name its founder had conferred upon it could not be justified even on patriotic grounds, often the last refuge of self-seeking partisans promoting their own interests. At the first election held in June of 1817 at William Bagley's house in New Hamp-

shire Street the voters showed their preference for the Collins faction. John Wharton Collins, Dudley Packwood, Thomas Tate and William Bagley were elected trustees. Representative Jesse Jones was also elected as a trustee. Later at the first meeting of the Town Council John Gibson was appointed Town Secretary.

Having covered the subject of the "why" of Wharton we should look into the "wherefore of Covington."

The War of 1812 now having ended, the country abounded with a fresh supply of heroes whose names were emblazoned on the new towns and counties being daily carved out on the face of this broad land. Mississippi acquired its Jackson, Perry, Wilkinson and Wayne Counties. Also as early as 1815 opposite Cincinnati, in Kentucky, a small settlement was established as a town under the name of Covington, in honor of General Leonard A. Covington. (2)

It will be remembered that it was General Leonard A. Covington who commanded the U. S. troops at St. Francisville and Baton Rouge when the West Florida revolt was settled. At that time he was a resident of Natchez, Mississippi, having immigrated from the Prince George District in Maryland several years before, and was a close neighbor and friend of General B. Morgan on the Louisiana side of the Mississippi River. At the outbreak of the War he joined General James Wilkinson in the invasion of Canada and was raised to the rank of Brigadier General. At the Battle of Chrysler's Field, in Canada, he was leading his brigade on a white charger when he was ambushed by a shot fired from the barn where a strong detachment of the enemy had been posted within. In the confused action of that bloody fight 302 of Covington's men fell with him.

The long circulated account that the proposed name "Covington" was adapted from a whiskey

(1) La. House and Senate Journals, 1816

(2) Encyc. Brit. Vol. VI, Pg. 614 (14th Ed.)

keg labeled "Covington, Kentucky," during a drinking bout by some of the leaders of the town is too absurd for serious notice, particularly when we consider that at the time Town Trustee William Bagley, in whose home the election was held, was a spirits manufacturer himself. He had also been in a profitable stock-raising industry and protected his herds against intrusion from the St. Tammany brown bears by baiting them with wild honey spiked with the product of his still. It made them easy marks for his rifle and their furs were also profitable. (1)

THE FOUNDER'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED

Meanwhile Collins health was failing rapidly. He so expressed himself in the will he made earlier in 1817. By September he was confined to his home. In that month he transferred his store and merchandise to his former employee, Colonel William B. Ligon, then newly appointed Sheriff. As he declined he was apparently weighted with heavy feelings of frustration. In a lawsuit he had filed to recover a shipment of cotton he refused to submit the matter to arbitration saying he "did not believe there was a man in St. Tammany who would do him justice." The 1817 winter as late as 1856 was remembered as one of the coldest in St. Tammany history. On December 12 Collins' condition required him to be taken

to New Orleans where a temporary residence was secured. Mrs. Collins' entries show a number of special articles were purchased for his comfort, which included two feather beds for \$100 and similar supplies. Despite the strictest of all of the accounts which were kept concerning his estate, there is nothing to show that he was ever attended by a physician or what was the nature of his illness.

On Christmas morning he was visited by a small group of friends, among them George W. Morgan, Sheriff of Orleans, and James A. Hosmer, who was yet to settle in Covington. While there his will was presented by him to them for confirmation. Two days later he died. His remains were brought back to Covington, sealed in a lead coffin, by the little mail boat. He was buried in the ground of his choice at the corner of Columbia and Kirkland, thereby founding by his death the Covington cemetery, where the city's dead for nearly a century and a half lies scattered about him. (2)

John Wharton Collins was 29 years old when he died. It is difficult to assess the cash value of his estate, especially the landed portion of it, but returns from notes and accounts as shown by Colonel Ligon yielded the modest sum of \$25,000. On March 21, 1818 an election was held to fulfill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees created by his death. His friend and supporter, Samuel Thomas, succeeded him.

(1) The writer is indebted to the late Mrs. Ella Hall Joor for information supplied by her many years ago concerning the General Covington story. Mrs. Joor was born at Madisonville in 1849. She had exceptional attainments as a teacher and scholar. Her father was Reverend Samuel B. Hall, founder of the Presbyterian Church in Covington in 1850, and who also taught here in the 1820's, young Thomas Wharton Collins being one of his pupils. Mrs. Joor died in 1911, and along with her husband, Dr. Joseph Finlay Joor, one-time early professor of Tulane University, is buried in Covington.

(2) In 1822 the Collins heirs made a formal deed to the Town Trustees of the land where this cemetery is located. In the same year Timothy Flint, that roving Presbyterian preacher who came to Madisonville and Covington for a brief period, remarked in his "Recollections" that this cemetery was one of the neatest and best kept he had found in his travels throughout this section of the State.

JOHN GIBSON, "FAITHFUL AND BOLD"
CO-FOUNDER OF COVINGTON

When Mrs. Thomas Wharton Collins waited on General Washington in Philadelphia to secure her husband's release from a military prison, she was accompanied by her little chatterbox daughter, four-year old Sarah. While the General listened to Mrs. Collins' story he held the pretty little prattler on his knee. After the interview ended he set the child down with a kiss and signed her father's release. In the months that followed, Washington in his walks down Chestnut Street, would often single out the little girl from her playmates for a kiss and inquire about her parents. Sally Collins Gibson died at 90 at Scranton, Pennsylvania, still remembered as "the little girl Washington kissed."

In 1793 she married William Gibson of Kirkenbrig, Scotland. They were the parents of thirteen children, John, born April 25, 1797, being the third. When Gibson reached 15 he followed the call of the Ohio Valley and the Mississippi to join his uncle, John Wharton Collins in New Orleans, to whom he was attached as a child. A short, stocky, florid Scotsman with a roguish twinkle in his eyes and a highly seasoned temper, he remained in Covington in the home of his uncle until Collins' death, which, at that time, found the Collins estate largely embarrassed over the fact that there was a minor child's interest involved and a widow incapable of administering the property and to carry on the sale of the lots, for which there was a growing demand. Accordingly, in June, 1818, Gibson married his uncle's widow and for the following seven years they remained in Covington until the last of St. John Division, the original part of town, had been parceled out. In 1824, John and Marie, along with young Thomas Collins, returned to New Orleans, leaving but a single street in Covington as a landmark to their former presence.

In New Orleans he found his metier in a career that would allow him full sail in whatever way he chose to assert himself, being at home in any

controversy partizan by nature.

He first became owner and editor of the Louisiana Argus, a newspaper which he published in English and French for seven years. On December 23, 1833, he acquired the Louisiana Advertiser. In 1835, the name was changed to the "True American," which he continued to publish and edit into the early 40's. On acquiring the Argus, Gibson adopted as his slogan "Faithful and Bold," which he carried on the mastheads of the different papers he published. In the opinion of George W. Cable and Lafcadio Hearn, John Gibson was considered one of the first of the early enterprising journalists of New Orleans. He made the True American a very snappy publication and, as they say, "the first editor to pay any attention to local news and politics." By the time January 25, 1837, arrived, the New Orleans Picayune appeared, published by F. A. Lumsden and G. W. Kendall, Kendall having served his newspaper apprenticeship in the office of the True American. In Volume I, No. 1 of the New Orleans Picayune John Gibson offered a prospectus of the commercial news and reading room for persons of culture that he was providing in his newspaper office at the corner of Magazine and Natchez in the Bank's arcade building.

From the year 1828 on, Gibson's career was stormy indeed. In the presidential contest between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams which followed, the Argus espoused the candidacy of Adams and when Jackson had decided to visit New Orleans for the ostensible purpose of renewing old friendships, Gibson opened up with all editorial guns against Old Hickory, causing the General to leave the city in the midst of the celebration which was going on in his honor when he swore he would never return again. But this did not ease off Gibson and the Adams supporters and when the bill for Jackson's entertainment was presented to the Legislature it was only honored in part.

Outside of the historic files of those early New Orleans newspapers he edited, Gibson

in collaboration with young Thomas Collins has left us a guide book to the City of New Orleans which today is not only of pronounced historical value but is a priceless collector's item as well. Following the establishment of the Picayune he retired to private life where he rounded out his days as a clerk of court in Tampico, Mississippi, having provided his gifted nephew and ward, Thomas Wharton Collins, with an education that led him to the fine social and professional heights he enjoyed in his day.

THOMAS WHARTON COLLINS

Thomas Wharton Collins, or "Collens" as he later in life identified himself, most likely to conform to his mother's French accent, may be said to have been the first of Covington's school boys to make good in a big way. He was scarcely three years old when his parents moved to Covington. There he attended the old Covington Academy under the direction of Reverend Samuel B. Hall, the Presbyterian divine, until he was fourteen. After his mother and uncle returned to New Orleans having disposed of their interests in the Covington establishment, he remained in close association with Gibson on the True American. He was emancipated at eighteen, assumed management of his estate and disposed of his interests in the Covington property. On finishing school in New Orleans he took up the study of law under the then distinguished jurist Thomas McCaleb and was admitted to practice at 21. Shortly before this, following his father's footsteps, he likewise selected a gracious creole lady for his mate, Miss Amenaide Milbrou. They were married before the same Cathedral altar his parents were. He became a capable linguist and the official translator of French and Spanish for the Louisiana Legislature 1832-1834. At one time he was professor of Political Economy in the former University of Louisiana. From 1834 to 1836 he was associate editor of The True American. He served as Chief Deputy Clerk of the Federal Courts in Louisiana. In 1840-42 he filled a term as District Attorney for Orleans Parish. Following this he became

presiding Judge of the City Court of New Orleans. In 1852 we find him sitting as a member of the Constitutional Convention. In 1860-62 he was Judge of the First District Court during the perilous days of the civil war in New Orleans and later was elected to the Seventh District Court in which he served for eight years. He was the father of eight children, Paul Wharton, Louisa Collens Turnbull, Amelia Collens Fassman, Adelia Collens McCaleb, Thomas Wharton Collins, Orfea Collens, Philip Wharton Collens and John Wharton Collens. He has long been generally acknowledged as a man of unusual talent and refinement. Among the more important of his literary output may be mentioned Martyr Patriots of Louisiana, a play acted in the old St. Charles Theatre while still in his minority, The Eden of Labor, 1876, also the History of Charity. He died November 3, 1879. His portrait hangs in the Supreme Court of Louisiana's Hall of Fame. At its dedication Judge Frank McGloin remarked that "Collens was a man of unbounded activity, deeply interested in practical concerns and he had as much to do as any citizen of his time in shaping the current events of this State."

A GENERAL FROM ST. TAMMANY

On August 22, 1943, nearly a century after his death, the descendants of David Banister Morgan and their friends gathered in the Madisonville cemetery to place a tablet on his tomb. General Morgan, sixth in descent from the early New England hero, Miles Morgan, was born August 21, 1772, at Springfield, Massachusetts. He began life as a civil engineer, and in the early part of 1802 was surveying about Boston and Portsmouth. Immediately after Claiborne became Governor of the new territory of Louisiana Morgan saw the vast possibilities that lay in the unopened West Florida country with plenty of business for a young surveyor. He had no doubt reached New Orleans before the Louisiana Purchase. Attestations made by him concerning some of the old

(Cont'd. on Page 23)

JESSE R. JONES

Others here and elsewhere in the State have also passed the fourscore and ten mark, but there are few whose names have appeared more frequently and with such regular prominence on the records of the home town in particular and the State at large than does that of Jesse R. Jones, merchant, manufacturer, planter, jurist and statesman. All these roles were played successfully by him during the three quarters of the nineteenth century he lived in the sequestered village of Covington. Whether at his counter, in the saddle, on the bench, or during intermittent terms as legislator and constitution-writer, Judge Jones' career presents a picture of valiant and undefeated leadership in St. Tammany Parish.

He was born October 9, 1787, at Charlottesville, Virginia, from where he moved into Kentucky and Missouri, and from there by the familiar flatboat route reached New Orleans in 1807. He discovered at once where opportunities lay in the forested hills of St. Tammany. After locating in Madisonville he married Lemandee Kirkland, daughter of Obed Kirkland, a well-to-do merchant, also an early settler here. She died in 1822. Later he married Rebecca Ragan.

Where an exclusive suburb now faces the Bogue Falaya River was once the site of the Jones Brickyard, an industry which he started immediately after his arrival. The clay reached his plant on wooden rails mounted with mule-drawn cars, which was regarded as an industrial innovation of the day.

As time moved on he enlarged on his St. Tammany investments by acquiring considerable property in New Orleans, including at one time the entire end of the Old Basin Canal, which he used for landing facilities for his brick and lumber fleet. There is a hiatus in his records from December 6, 1814 to February 24, 1815. That was the time he was occupied as a volunteer under Jackson at New Orleans. During the Civil War his winter residence on Carondelet Street was sacked by Butler's

troops. His public career began as foreman of the first grand jury to be impanelled in St. Tammany Parish in 1813. He was elected State Representative first in 1816 and remained continuously in office either in the Legislature or on the bench throughout the active period of his life. Twenty years of that period was put in as District Judge and he was an outstanding member in the Constitutional Convention of 1852.

On March 22, 1883, a new springtime had arrived for this patriarchal gentleman, as he sat quietly observing the proceedings of the last session of the Legislature to be held in New Orleans, but the following day a motion for eternal adjournment was rapped from an unseen gavel, as Jesse R. Jones was nearing ninety-three. He is buried in Metairie Cemetery. It has been repeatedly said he bore the distinction among his constituents of having never solicited a vote for office.

GENERAL MORGAN (Cont'd. from Pg. 22)

Mandeville titles show that he had been in St. Tammany in 1804. He first settled in Concordia on the river opposite Natchez. Claiborne, his neighbor, had now been transferred to Louisiana as Governor of that territory. He appointed Morgan as a member from Concordia to the first Legislative Council that convened in New Orleans December 2, 1804. He later served as Parish Judge and was on the Commission appointed to establish the first Courthouse in Concordia Parish. Meanwhile, he served as Surveyor-General for both Mississippi and Louisiana, and under the Constitution of 1812 was elected the first State Senator from the Concordia District. He also had previous military experience as Adjutant-General in Mississippi and Louisiana. Amid all these activities his eyes remained fixed on St. Tammany, and in 1812 he purchased a 600 acre plantation on the Tchefuncte, at which he spent part of his time. He was first married to Eliza Middleton in Massachusetts. She died at Madisonville January 22, 1816, leaving three children, Adeline, David Banister and Charles. Later he married Mary Baham.

Six children were born of this union, Andrew Jackson, Joseph, Samuel Harper, Josephine, Lewis and Mary.

As the time neared for the British attack on New Orleans, Claiborne commissioned him as senior Brigadier-General of the Louisiana Militia, and after Jackson's arrival he was placed second in command of the operations below the city. It is in connection with the events which occurred in that campaign General Morgan remains an outstanding figure in international history.

On the day before the deciding blow occurred at Chalmette, Morgan had in his outfit some 300 Louisiana and Mississippi recruits all decidedly under-armed and poorly equipped. Not over a dozen had ever scented the smoke of battle. That evening Jackson ordered him to cross the river with his men and take up a position opposite the British lines, for the purpose of intercepting a landing force that would march upstream and recross to the city to the rear of the Chalmette line, a move which might have proved fatal to the American defense. Several days prior to Morgan's departure a naval commander Patterson had moved his ship's guns from there and set them up behind the levee to harass the enemy. Still he was in no position to resist a superior landing force with a handful of sailors. He reported to Jackson the impressive preparations the British were making, clearly showing their intent to cross over to the west bank, and the general ordered 400 of the Kentuckians from General Adair's army which had just arrived at New Orleans to reinforce Morgan's men.

"At seven o'clock in the evening," says Parton, "after a day of hard marching, during which they had only once broken their fast, Colonel Davis and his men marched from their lines where they were to receive their arms; at the city they found they had only 200 old and defective muskets. Only 200 crossed."

It was four o'clock on the morning of the 8th when they reached Morgan's position, hungry

dog-tired and chilled to the bone. Continues Parton:

"Even with these reinforcements Morgan's command amounted to not more than 812, all militia, all badly armed, posted behind works on which advance troops had labored for only three days. Jackson should have spared a few companies of regulars for this side of the river, which had suddenly become so important. With another day of preparations and clear insight he could have done something effectively for the western bank. It was too late then."

At one o'clock on the morning of the 8th, a messenger from General Morgan aroused Jackson at his headquarters to inform him of the alarming developments and that more troops would be needed to defend the west side, and here is where Old Hickory made one of the worst guesses probably in his whole life.

"Hurry back," he said, "and tell General Morgan that he is mistaken. The main attack will be on this side and I have no men to spare. He must maintain his position at all hazards."

He looked at his watch and ordered his aides to get up, that the attack was near at hand. At six the British columns were advancing on Jackson's outposts, and by eight o'clock the battle below New Orleans, which lasted exactly twenty-five minutes, was over, with much congratulating and handshaking behind the breastworks. But matters were somehow in a different shape across the river. Gazing in that direction the General was wondering at the silence of the guns in Morgan's line. Those on the British side there were talking at length. What Jackson then saw through his field glass was General Thornton and his crack veteran troops marching to the attack. Later the guns from Morgan's Division replied, which brought loud cheers from those victory-happy defenders at Chalmette, little knowing how near disaster their comrades on the opposite bank at the

moment were facing. Briefly what happened was this:

At 4:30 that morning about the time Colonel Davis and his Kentuckians reached Morgan's lines, Colonel Thornton, who three weeks before had launched the redcoats from Pearl Island to Chalmette, stepped his men from their barges four miles below, and at double quick time began their march along the levee under the cover of three small gunboats which kept abreast of his columns. On the way Thornton met an outpost of 120 Louisiana volunteers who had thrown up a breastwork during the night and then fell asleep. A shot from one of the gunboats was timely enough to break their slumber, only to start them in headlong flight to their main body. Meanwhile, those Kentuckians without rest or refreshment kept on their march down river with orders "to meet the enemy, engage him, and defeat him if they could; retreat to the lines if they could not." They met Thornton with what little they had. When resistance became hopeless they likewise followed the Louisianians to the rear and here another stand was made with Thornton's troops just 700 yards off. The weakness of the American lines was manifest, but as the British right wing advanced it was met by a well-directed fire of gunshot from Morgan's guns which made havoc, and causing them to recoil with the loss of their commander. Thornton himself led with the full force of his right and the Kentuckians seeing themselves about to be hemmed in, fled in confusion. Three minutes more and they would have been captured. The Louisianians, rallied by Morgan, held their ground until they killed or wounded 100 of the enemy, but seeing no chance left, also joined in the retreat, but in much better order, until they reached the anchorage of the Louisiana, commanded by Patterson. Here they assisted the sailors in shouldering the hawser and in towing her higher upstream. For the moment the day on the west bank had turned in favor of the British, or so it seemed. Thornton managed to reach Morgan's redoubt, but was so severely wounded, he turned over his command to Colonel Gibbens still ignorant of what had

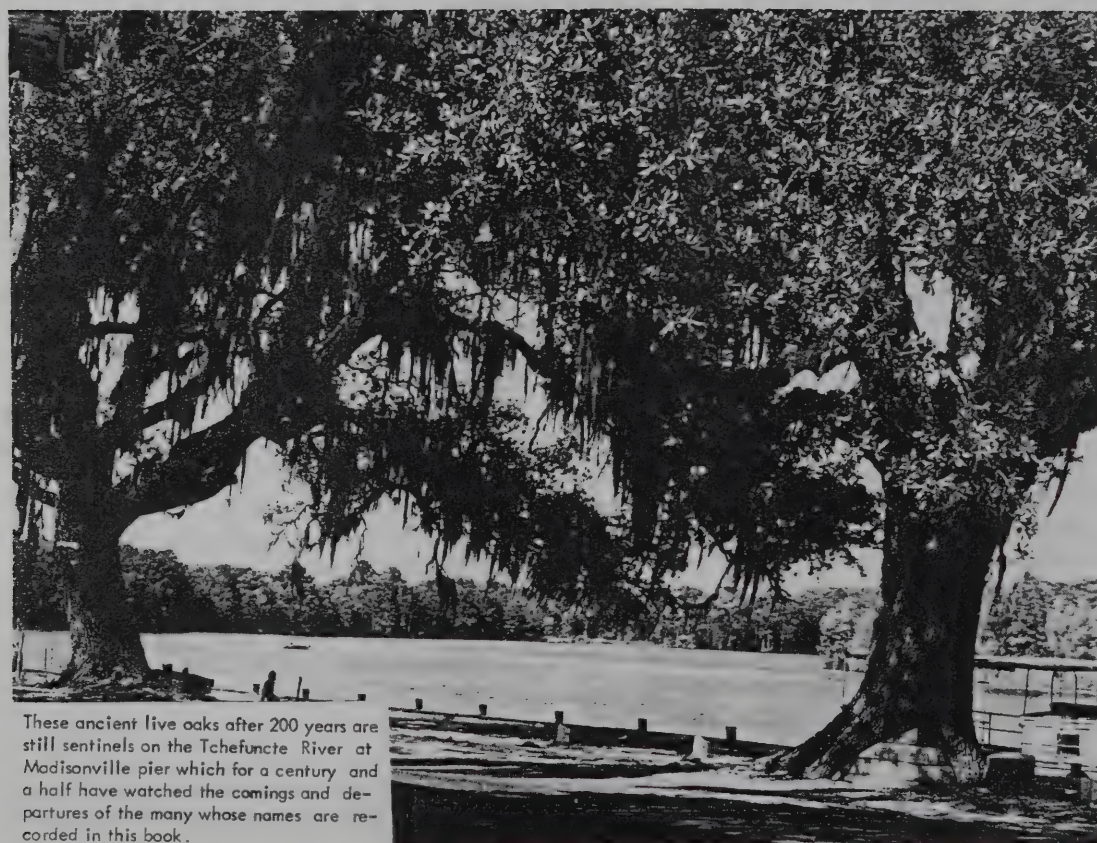
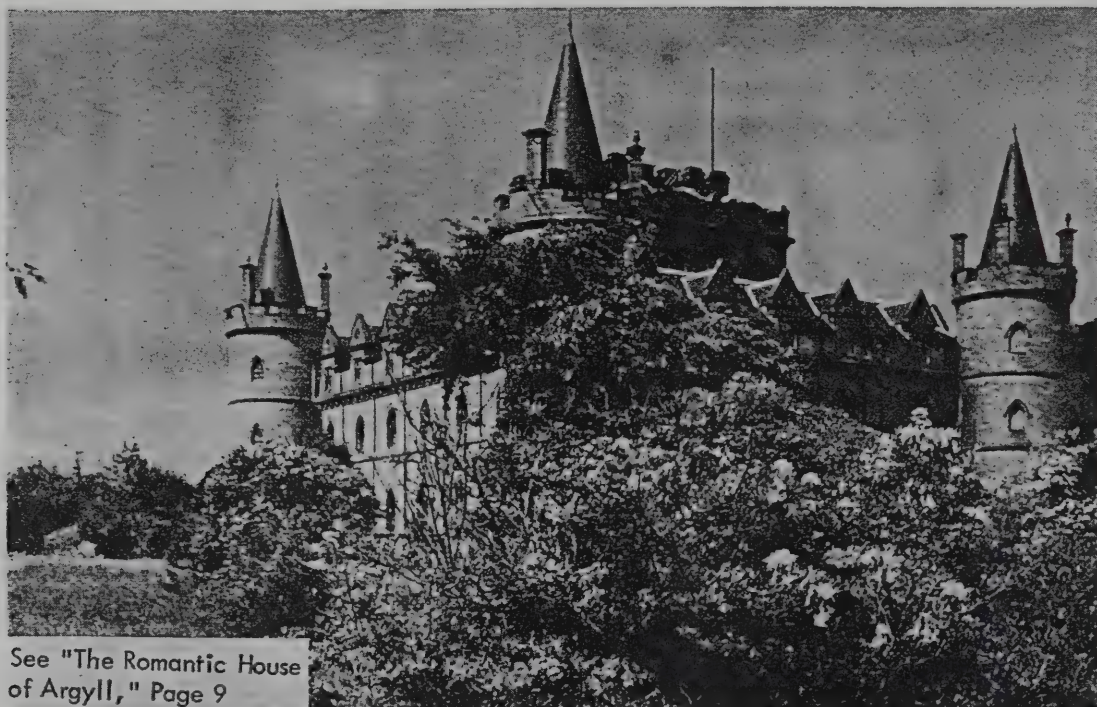
happened to Parkenham's legion. It was now ten o'clock but with no artillery at hand to follow him across, Thornton was left with a barren triumph. General Lambert now commanding what remained of the British below Chalmette, saw fit to recall the invaders on the west, to the utter astonishment of Jackson who was already preparing to resist their advance into New Orleans.

The library shelves are stacked with conflicting views and accounts as to the part that General Morgan played in that memorable engagement. There are some critics who are prone to question his military ability, but the best informed attest not only to his courage, but hold to the conviction that due to the delaying action employed during those six fateful hours, the British might well have snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. One writer who warmly admired General Morgan of Madisonville was Theodore Roosevelt. (1)

General Morgan did not return with his chilled and suffering brigade until he was sure the British had decamped. Meanwhile, he burned all fences and buildings in front of his position for the twofold reason of keeping a clear watch for a return engagement and to provide his men with much needed fuel during that bitter January of 1815.

One of the well remembered descendants of General Morgan by his first marriage is the late Lewis Lovering Morgan of Mandeville, a former Superintendent of Education, Member of the Legislature, District Attorney, and United States Congressman.

(1) Theodore Roosevelt, History of Naval War of 1812



THE MANDEVILLE OF BEN MARIGNY

For more than 175 years the site of Mandeville has been linked with the name of the famous Marigny de Mandeville family of France and colonial Louisiana. William Bartram, the botanist, authorized by Governor Peter Chester to travel in West Florida after leaving Mr. Rumsey's plantation on Prevost Island in October 1775 describing his approach by the Lake, leaves us with a brief glimpse of its first settlement at the outbreak of the American Revolution.

"Next day early we got underway, pursuing our course nearly westward, keeping the North shore several leagues immediately back of a high sandy strand. Setting from seaward across the widest part of the lake, the ground suddenly falls, and becomes extensive flat cypress swamps, the sources of creeks and rivers which run into the Lake and Pearl River. The high forests of the main now approaching the Lake, advance up to the very shore, where we find houses, plantations and new settlements. We came to one of them charmingly situated."

From the standpoint of acquisition and settlement, Mandeville, like Madisonville, may be said to be the oldest inhabited locality in the Parish. Louis Davis, an Englishman, was granted a concession signed by British West Florida Governor Peter Chester, on January 20, 1777. It fronts twenty acres on the Lake by a depth of twelve on Bayou Castain. The grant was later confirmed by Governor Miro, and eventually came into the possession of Bernard P. de Marigny, but it took an act of Congress as late as 1832 to make the title airtight. This land, together with other tracts acquired from the heirs of some of those early settlers formed the area from which Louis Bringier, Surveyor General of Louisiana, mapped out the original town of Mandeville. The Legislature on March 24, 1840, declared "All free white inhabitants" in that locality were incorporated into the Town of Mandeville, where below the Bayou and along the Lake shore stretched out the 3500 acre forest

and plantation of Fontainbleau, Marigny's country estate.

There can be no consistent approach to the story of Mandeville without going to some extent into the life of that sad, bad, amorous, glad, glamorous creole, who for years divided his domicile as he did his dreams between the North and South shores of the Lake, striving in those years to knit his two estates into a flourishing enterprise by the oncoming means of steamer travel.

The father of Bernard Marigny, Pierre Philippe Marigny, was born in New Orleans in 1750, a descendant of Francois Philippe Marigny de Mandeville, who was in the King's command when the city was founded. Pierre grew up in New Orleans and did more than well under the Spanish governors. Long before fifty he had massed enormous wealth in lands about the outlying sections of New Orleans. His holdings in some places extended from the river to the Lake. For a century the Marigny mansion stood at the head of Elysian Fields Avenue, said fit to house a king, and it literally did, when the exiled Duc Louis Philippe of France was its guest. On May 14, 1800, Marigny, pere, died at his modest summer home in the future town of Mandeville. The place is now remembered as the one time "Casino" of Paul Arceneaux. Pierre lies entombed with his ancestors in the transept of the St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans.

Bernard, the founder of Mandeville, was born October 28, 1785, at New Orleans. His mother was the aristocratic Jeanne d'Estrehan. At his father's death it is said he became the richest man in the country. Being then fifteen he was sent to Europe for his education. At eighteen we find him back in his ancestral home, a polished gentleman, and entertaining de Laussat, Napoleon's minister, who had been sent to New Orleans to perfect the Louisiana Purchase. Marigny was selected as his aide. The Legislature emancipated him at twenty, which gave him a free hand in the management of his affairs. For some years he was financially successful in the business

ventures in which he led. In the War of 1812 he was on Governor Claiborne's staff, and fought valiantly at the defense of New Orleans. In fact, his fighting instinct had led many of his detractors to assume that dueling continued as his principal pastime until age unarmed him. By actual count, according to the best of his biographers, he came through with honor in about fifteen under the code. In 1812 he helped to write the first Constitution, and in 1817 held a seat in the State Legislature. In 1824 he was a candidate for governor in a five-cornered race. 6,525 votes were cast in the State: Henry Johnson received 2,847, Jacques Villere, 1,831, Bernard Marigny, 1,427, Philemon Thomas, 236, and Thomas Butler, of Feliciana, 184. The General Assembly declared Johnson elected.

In 1828 he was back in the race for the same office, with two of the former candidates, Butler and Thomas, as opponents, plus another creole, illustrious in Louisiana annals, Pierre Derbigny, a candidate of that time it would have been hard to beat. Derbigny received 3,686 votes, Butler 1,699, Marigny 1,231. At that, Marigny did well enough, since the Florida Parishes had little reason for going "creole" under any circumstances.

Side-stepping Marigny's early public career, we return to his private undertaking at the beginning of the 1830's, when he turned his attention to St. Tammany, his Fontainebleau Estate consisting of about five square miles, which had been acquired from the heirs of Antoine Bonabel. Extending far back from the shore were the stately live oak groves and virgin pine forests, under which the Acolapissas had for generations before met for their tribal dances and war councils. It was here that Marigny set about erecting his sprawling villa, built from his own brick works and sawmill, and supported by an extensive sugar plantation, all implemented with scores of slaves, occupying their own village. Here rose a mansion home built mainly for pleasure though possibly for profit, but secure from those fever epidemics which haunted New Orleans with frightful regularity.

In such a princely establishment he could welcome celebrities and friends of his choice and, at the same time, let it stand forth as a badge of opulence far outshining any like attempt on the part of his most hated and hating rivals. Beneath it all lay the basis of practical business. In 1831 the Pontchartrain Railroad Company had bought from Marigny his canal and all the land running with it for three and a half miles along Elysian Fields Avenue to Milneburg. That same year the second railroad in the United States was readied for operation along this route. New Orleans, due to American activities, had been developing an upper rather than a lower-town trend. Counteracting this, Marigny envisioned a new town to be called Mandeville in the primeval forest that lay just across the water. Steamer service would perfect that, and for three years more he worked to that end.

Among those bon vivants of old New Orleans counted by Marigny among his closest associates was John Davis, a French emigre from Santo Domingo. He had a Parisian flair for what was aesthetic and splendid. As early as 1817 he had become the owner of the Orleans Theatre, which he afterwards rebuilt at a cost of \$180,000, and as his own impresario, presented New Orleans for years with a series of plays and operatic engagements direct from Paris, which now seem fabulous in the light of certain conditions which existed in that day. He likewise carried on in connection with his theatrical operations one of the largest and most sensational gambling houses in America and which, in time, grew into a chain affair. No constitutional authority had yet denounced gambling as a vice, nor would any gentleman of financial or social attainments have regarded it as such. It was as much an incidental to his way of living as good music, excellent food, or a readiness to resort to the code. It has never been denied that either Marigny or Davis failed in their appreciation of those fine arts.

When Marigny kept open house at Fontainebleau, it was customary for Davis to introduce his stage celebrities to his friend's hospitality. On these occasions some of the best chefs in the city were drafted to provide the cuisine for the lavish soirees that were given. There were times also when the goddess of chance alone ruled over such parties for days without stint or limit.

In December of 1833 he had completed plans to put his town on the market when he announced in the New Orleans Bee:

"The Quartier de Mandeville will be sold at public auction as soon as the plat shall be made public. The wide space of ground on Lake Pontchartrain between Bayou Castain and Judge Lewis's plantation measures 5000 arpents. Prior to the sale some particulars of the advantages of the place and its over-spreading forests will be published. To insure the purchaser of the facts maintained in my prospectus, he will be allowed to call on his agent, Louis Coquellon at Quartier Mandeville and decline the adjudication.

B. Marigny"

This was followed by notice in the New Orleans Bee:

"To the public. The steamboat Blackhawk, Captain Hoffman, will leave the railroad Sunday next at 9 A.M. for Mandeville and will return at 4 P.M., to visit the lots of ground for sale. Persons desiring to visit same will repair to the river at 8 A.M. Steamboat expenses will be paid by the undersigned.

B. Marigny"

Between the 24th and 26th of February, Mossy & Garidel and Francis Dutillet sold at auction 432 lots to 358 persons, the bids aggregated the sum of \$80,000. The deeds were made subject to the provision that "Captain Sheridan had been commissioned by him - Marigny - and by Monsieur John Davis, to buy a steamboat of superior swiftness to make trips to Mandeville; the fare across the lake not to exceed \$1. This single-handed real-estate transaction is still a challenge today to the legions of realtors who peddle their wares

with the massive impact of modern advertising. Davis himself acquired two squares facing the beach in front of the public landing pier. In his deed he agreed to have the hotel which he had planned completed by the fourth of July that year. Thus, on that glorious 4th of 1834 Marigny followed the suggestion of his predecessor, John Wharton Collins, in establishing another new town in St. Tammany Parish. On that day the hotel was opened with Louis Boudro, noted French chef, in charge. Of Boudro, the famous singer Jenny Lind has been quoted after leaving her New Orleans engagement where she was royally entertained by Baroness Pontalba, there are two persons she would fondly remember - the Baroness and Boudro, the cook.

After the great depression of 1837, which dampened all financial activities, Marigny's adventure suffered like the rest, and in many cases he merely had to accept back sales from would-be Mandevillians who had lost their all in that crash. But withal during those first years and up to the coming of the Civil War, the straggling village of Mandeville had acquired a reputation for gayety and sports in the vacation season that stood unrivaled among southern resort towns of that day. When other attractions failed it was not uncommon before the middle of the century, after "the oaks" at Allard Plantation were losing their privacy, for dueling parties to take the steamboat for Mandeville and settle their differences in the quiet of the St. Tammany forest. A noteworthy instance was the challenge of two cotton brokers who became involved in a recriminatory discussion over their respective business activities, which were being aired in the newspapers. The matter was to be settled with hunting rifles on a trip to Mandeville between S. L. Oakley, a prominent cotton man of New Orleans, and an Englishman from abroad. On the appointed day a steamboat load of well known citizens sailed the Lake to a secluded spot. It was not hard to find one. The spectators, ranging on either side where the opponents stood forty paces apart, saw Oakley drop his victim at the first word "fire."

There are, of course, a number of coroner's inquests recorded in St. Tammany in the early 1840's but this affair is not entered. Neither is there any account of how much refreshment was had by the party at the Mandeville Hotel before the steamboat sailed back.

In laying out Mandeville streets their founder seems less whimsical in selecting their names than he did for his Faubourg Marigny, some twenty years before. There we find thoroughfares tagged Good Children, Gentlemen, Desire, Love, Bagatelle, and even Craps, after his well-known game which became famous at Fontainebleau. In Mandeville he recalls the heroes of his youth, Claiborne, Jackson, Madison, Livingston, Lafayette, Lafitte, Girod, Wilkinson, as well as Adair, Coffee and Carroll, generals who led the Kentucky and Tennessee riflemen at Chalmette. What Foy Street recalls is not clear, but if it was intended it could still register the faith the Father of Mandeville had in his town.

Marigny married twice, first to Mary Ann Jones in 1808, leaving two children. She was buried in the flower garden of his mansion in New Orleans. In 1810 he married Senora Anna Morales, daughter of the former Spanish intendant in Louisiana. By this union he had five children. This second marriage seems never to have been a happy one. In the important constitutional convention of 1845 referred to, Marigny appeared as a member and distinguished himself in the debates against the creole faction which sought to prolong the strained attitude against the rapidly growing American element in New Orleans.

By the time Marigny had reached the age of sixty seven his fortunes had completely waned. Settlements with his children and the fluctuations in real estate account for much of the depreciation. Profits made in the exploitation of Mandeville had long since been frittered away, and Fontainebleau was mounted with mortgages to the hilt. In 1852 the place, with eighty of the remaining slaves, was foreclosed on probably for the account of Pierre Poutz, a wealthy cotton buyer, for \$77,000.

In the deed Armand Marigny, his second son, as a gesture it seems, was allowed to remain at his ancestral home for three months before being evicted. Fontainebleau has recently become a Louisiana State Park, and a site for the modern East Louisiana State Hospital.

Bernard Marigny died suddenly while walking down Royal Street at the advanced age of 83, aristocrat in spite of all. His last living descendant, Bernard Prosper de Marigny, with whom the family name became extinct, died in Mandeville in 1910.



DRUM TAPS AND BUGLE NOTES 1861--64

At high noon January 23, 1861, Hardy Richardson, Senatorial delegate for the Parishes of St. Tammany, Washington and Livingston, and Sidney S. Conner, House delegate from St. Tammany, joined in the ayes in the Convention at Baton Rouge and signed the ordinance which dissolved the State of Louisiana from the Federal Union, declaring the State to be a "free sovereign and independent power."

The Census of 1860 gave St. Tammany a population of 5406, of which 1841 were slaves. The voters included 189 families who were land owners and 546 who owned no land. In other words the entire white population inhabiting 1000 square miles could have been contained in a small town of 3500. St. Helena, our eastern neighbor, with a population of 7130, had 3711 slaves, and Washington to the north with a smaller population of 4708 owned 1690. In St. Helena there were 396 families owning land to 414 who did not, and Washington, with the smallest population appears with 405 land-owning families, and the small number of 125 who were landless. These three Florida Parish figures are cited because while cast in a common lot which they shared in the end, their political views wavered between Conservationist and Secessionist. The Conservationists were for staving off a separation from the Union until the slave question and states rights could be debated in a full dress southern convention, and an amendment of the Constitution submitted to the nation. The Census further shows that St. Tammany stood at the foot of the 48 Parishes in point of agricultural wealth, and in spite of its great natural resources, it was barely more than a trading center. During the voting in the convention St. Tammany and St. Helena remained in the co-operationist group; Washington went all out Secessionist.

On April 12th the firing on Fort Sumter brought home the full reality of civil war. Aroused and angry now were alarms not heard along the countryside from Bogue Chitto to

Madisonville since the 1815 days of Jackson and Morgan, a forty-five year lull of drowsy silence had been broken by the call to arms. Two volunteer companies were immediately raised, the St. Tammany grays headed by Charles Crosby, and the St. Tammany Artillery under the command of Captain J. A. Turner. Many other volunteers found their way early into the Confederate Army through Washington Artillery and other New Orleans outfits.

It was not until the blockade of New Orleans became effective that the people here were made to feel the sharper pangs of deprivation. The absence of a full quota of able-bodied men brought farming and commerce, such as it had been, to a standstill. Then came the panic when the city surrendered to Farragut in April of 1862, and the Confederate force commanded by General Lovell, withdrew to Camp Moore located on the New Orleans Jackson Railroad and the Tchefuncte River, once the western border of the Parish.

As those disastrous April days ended, Lovell disclosed what his plans were or had been with respect to St. Tammany:

"Forts Jackson and St. Philip surrendered in consequence of mutiny among the men on the 28th of April. Forts Pike and McComb were abandoned without my orders. When I returned to the city from the lower forts on the 24th I directed Colonel Fuller, who was in command of the works on the lakes, which comprise Forts Pike and McComb, to have everything ready to abandon those forts in case I should so order it."

It was the Confederate Commander's idea to move his troops and supplies from New Orleans across the Lake to Madisonville and Manchac, assuming that the Federals would seize the New Orleans & Jackson Railroad on which Camp Moore was located and in this way Confederate communication through the Lake could be kept open with the aid of

the forts. Matters turned out otherwise and the next that the Commander learned was that Captain Fuller had arrived at Covington with the garrisons of Pike and McComb; that the guns had been spiked and dismantled and that the fort could not be reoccupied, let alone that the water supply was low and had to be conveyed by steamboat for some distance. The garrisons had now reached Covington and consisted of well drilled artillerymen and from here marched through the piney woods to Camp Moore for later service in the defense of Vicksburg. (1)

After the fall of the forts the people of St. Tammany were confronted by the exactions of northern troopers who crossed the Lake on foraging expeditions, appropriating dearly prized family horses and livestock generally. This, naturally, brought retaliatory acts from the "guerillas," irregulars of the Confederate Army, or more often referred to as partisans, by Federal officers in reporting their engagements. These guerillas quite often resorted to sniping Union soldiers on sight, likewise committing depredations against their neighbors when assumed by them to be Union sympathizers. This was followed by the sending of troop detachments from Butler's command in reprisal. Under this three-fold evil the plight of the helpless non-combatants for more than two years remained deplorable.

The summer of dread continued to reach its climax in the closing days of July, 1862. At that time the last assault on Baton Rouge and its surrender had been made, but before this occurred it appears to have been Butler's opinion that the Confederate high command still had hopes of retaking New Orleans by an assault from the lakes. Stationed at Ponchartroula was a body of troops apparently designed for that purpose, commanded by General Jeff Thompson, who held out for legitimate warfare and who it seems always commanded the respect of Ben Butler.

During the same month a Union detachment made up of five companies of the 12th Connecticut Infantry and a section of the 2nd Battery Vermont Light Artillery had been operating in St. Tammany Parish. This outfit, 500 strong was placed in command of Major Frank M. Peck and embarked on the transport "Grey Cloud" on the evening of July 25th from New Orleans, first arriving at Manchac, where they burned the railroad bridge across Manchac Pass. The next morning the "Grey Cloud" steamed up the Tchefuncte until it reached Madisonville where it was fired upon by Confederate partisans concealed on the bank. Promptly returning this fire the "Grey Cloud" sent a 32-pounder shell through the Madisonville street, which had the effect of calling off the snipers but killing a woman and a child who served, unfortunately, as targets.

On April 8th previously the Picayune reported that the Confederate gun boats Pamlico, Oregon and Carondelet, had been returned from the Gulf Coast in a damaged condition. It now appears that these three craft had been sunk in the Tchefuncte River at the intersection of Ceaser's Bayou, and this obstruction is what the "Grey Cloud" met with on its course up the Tchefuncte to capture the town of Covington.

With the obstruction in the Tchefuncte discovered the march to Covington was taken up on foot and the town was occupied. The only civilian officer present was John Eadis Smith, a merchant whose home still survives in Rutland near New Hampshire Street. As Coroner he was acting as Sheriff for the Parish and from here the Blue Coats learned that the Confederates were concentrating on the Tchefuncte bank to cut off their return to the Lake. The Vermonters, in heavy woolen uniforms, then marched through Columbia Street with the Stars and Stripes as far as the bridgehead on Gibson Street, returned, and ordered that all Confederate insignia should be brought down including the flag that floated over Coroner Smith's residence. This was complied with. This writer recalls the statement from Miss Susie Kentzel, one of the daughters of

(1) Edw. A. Pollard, *The Lost Cause*, pg. 256

Mr. Smith, who said as a girl she served drinking water from their home well to the thirsting Yankee soldiers before their forced march back to Madisonville. As a result of the rapid pace under which they were ordered, two men collapsed and died from sunstroke.

True to the advice the Yankees gained while in Covington after they boarded the "Grey Cloud" they were met by ambush fire from the Confederates concealed in the thick forest underbrush along the Tchefuncte banks. Three men on the transport were wounded but a reply shot from the Vermonters' 20-pounder parrotts silenced the brief engagement. After refueling the transport sailed to the Gulf Coast and returned to St. Tammany on August 1st, where Major F. H. Peck, 12th Connecticut, sent combat forces ashore at Mandeville, Lewisburg and Madisonville, but these were met with no resistance. Major Peck spent a week in guerilla hunting along the shores of Lake Pontchartrain and reported to his headquarters that he "found everywhere traces of indiscriminate plunder and destruction." Ascending Pearl River he said, "We found the people in great destitution and beset by plunderers on every side. At Lewisburg all the docks and buildings were burned by a band of guerillas two weeks since. It will cost many thousands of dollars to rebuild them. Madisonville was deserted and nearly every public and private building closed. In many places throughout St. Tammany flour had not been seen for months." (1)

The 6th Judicial District Court adjourned in Covington on December 7, 1861 and did not reconvene until November 23, 1863. On March 15, 1862 the Police Jury appropriated \$20,000 for the relief of dependents of volunteers. This consisted of a monthly ration of cornmeal or "Confederate flour" as it was called, at the value of \$10.00 per ration. It was not long after the fall of New Orleans that the inhabitants were suffering the pangs of every deprivation which war can bring. Butler had been

succeeded by General Banks and Madisonville was referred to by the Federals as the gateway to the "so-called Confederacy" still left in Louisiana. The state capital had been removed from Baton Rouge to Shreveport.

A common sight at the Madisonville pier was the arrival of steamboats from New Orleans carrying groups of persons who were deported from their homes with nothing more than the clothes they wore and provisions for ten days, for refusal to take the oath of allegiance as ordered by General Banks. These displaced persons were in most cases men and women of refinement, some with sons still in the service and whose worldly possessions had been dissipated by the fortunes of war. They were dumped at Madisonville to take what refuge they could find in what was left of the starving confederacy.

Another pathetic episode in the four years conflict was the plight of the Choctaw Indians about Lacombe. From the time the Federals first crossed the Lake on their foraging parties the tribesmen had taken flight with their missionary leader Pere Adrien Rouquette, into the surrounding swamps. Their fields and enclosures were destroyed, their livestock had disappeared, and even the rude chapel at Buchuwa had been razed. Despite the fact that Rouquette took heroic measures to get through the Federal lines at New Orleans to convince the occupation authorities of their status as non-combatants, and their necessity for medicines, principally quinine for the malaria-stricken, all but eighty of the 600 natives of Buchuwa had perished from want and disease by the time peace was restored. The story of Father Rouquette, born in 1813, is one of the most interesting in St. Tammany Parish.

Throughout the war St. Tammany was never brought under formal subjugation by the invaders. After the fall of New Orleans they gave their attention to the river parishes and those in the western part of the State. St. Tammany and the Lake was the trade route the Federals took for commercial dealing with their foes.

(1) U. S. War Dept. Records, Vol. 15, pg. 124
Battle of Baton Rouge, Edwin C. Bearrs,
Vol. III, No. 2, Louisiana History

Southern cotton was what they prized most, and this the Confederates exchanged cheaply for - some of the barest necessities in a famine-stricken country. The proof is very loud that Butler, in company with his brother and other colleagues, profited hugely in that form of traffic.

In the third year of the struggle there was a growing despondency throughout the unoccupied parts of the State. Conscription became less and less popular with each succeeding victory of Union troops. The dollar having become valueless, taxes were being levied in kind, and the "Impressment Act" passed by the Confederate Congress became more and more odious. Under this law the government was empowered to draft private property at ceiling prices which often amounted to confiscation. All combined, this left many of proven loyalty in a state of despair and it is not surprising to read that in St. Tammany and Livingston Parishes alone many deserters and conscripts were concealing themselves in the forest recesses. In the summer of 1863, as related to the writer by the late Emile (Boss) Frederick of Covington, a Confederate detail in a round-up of deserters shot two escapees and left their bodies hanging from trees on the Old Landing Road. A copy of the Impressment Act printed on a small sheet of newsprint sold for a dollar in Covington.

President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was intended to weaken the Confederacy by the abolition of its labor power and was given effect in Louisiana only in the 35 unsubjected parishes, of which St. Tammany was one. It was but natural that many slaves finding freedom for the asking deserted into the Federal lines accessible to them. There they were fed by the United States and given work of different sorts, which leaves us with a picture given us by Professor J.R. Ficklen in his History of Reconstruction:

"In a New Orleans paper of June, 1864 I found a letter written from Covington by a mother to her son in the Confederate Army, 'nearly every negro on this side of the Lake,' she tells him 'has run

away and gone to the Yankees.'"

And, so, in this centennial year of the Civil War, we must end on the sombre note in St. Tammany that everything had either gone to the Yankees or had been lost to them. A generation of dreary years was to follow, with education neglected, transportation undeveloped, and "carpetbaggery rule" indiscriminate before the dawn of the Twentieth Century brought this Parish to a new horizon.



St. Tammany Parish Court House first erected in 1820 on Bogus Folleye River opposite Covington in what is called Claiborne Indian



Typical antebellum home in Covington, residence of Mrs. Ida Chapman

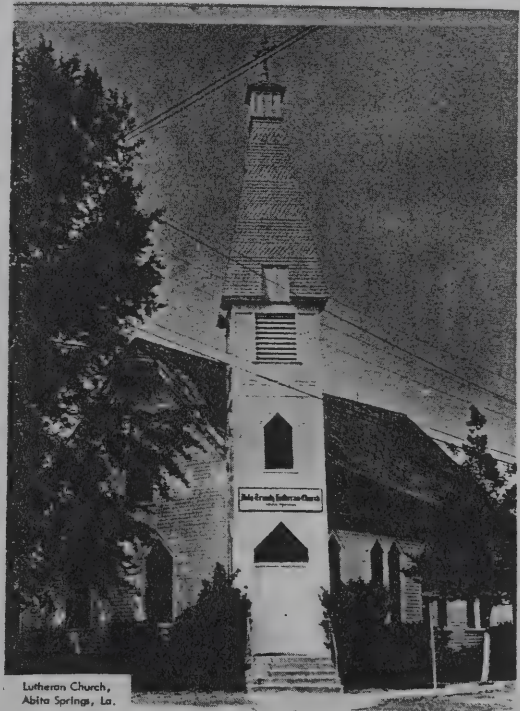
ABITA SPRINGS

"Fountain Waters of Health." That seems to be the Choctaw interpretation of the word "Abita" or "Abeka" which the tribe in the early 18th century brought down from their Bogue Chitto villages in Mississippi to reside in St. Tammany, and until the 1890's when the surviving Choctaws were finally moved to Indian territory, Abita Springs figured with Bayou LaCombe as the headquarters for Indian life.

In March, 1854, the Picayune announced that an artesian well in Canal Street near Dauphine was being bored and had reached a depth of 234 feet. Later accounts showed that as the drilling continued a fence was placed about it with peep holes for the passersby to observe the work going on, and still later it appeared that the best results obtained was salt water, which would be no different if tried for today at Canal and Dauphine Streets. Right after this adventure well drillers turned their attention to St. Tammany Parish where artesian waters were surfaced with the same force as they are today, but in that region four miles east of Covington the Choctaws still had their native springs, and these also through their owner, Captain Joseph S. Bossier, succeeded in interesting Colonel William Christy, said to have been the first Kentuckian to enlist in the War of 1812 against England and who came to New Orleans as an army paymaster in the winter of 1815. He rose to prominence and wealth as a lawyer and merchant. His name appeared in state and city politics of his day. As a candidate for Mayor in the early 19th century he headed the first reform movement in New Orleans. On June 5, 1855, the Picayune had this to say:

The Abita or Christy Springs, in the immediate vicinity of the beautiful, little Abita river (into which they flowed), were named after Col. Wm. Christy, who had much to do with making them famous. With a large adjacent acreage, they belonged to Capt. Bossier, who erected some comfortable summer cottages and planned to improve the grounds in

front with walks, gardens, etc. The waters, carefully analyzed, were medicinal to a high degree. Visitors fared on fresh eggs, milk, butter, chickens, fish, etc., their appetites braced by a few draughts of the sparkling liquid and by the odor of the wild, pine forests. The latter were full in season with the echoes of "Bob White's" round, full whistle; the country about, with quail, deer, rabbits, squirrels, etc. (though honest sportsmen knew none should be shot before mid-September); and the clear Abita, with trout, pike and perch. The springs were reached by lake and river steamboat, and by rough, country, six-person omnibus over the two and a half miles from Covington.





Ancient springs as preserved
in Wayside State Park, Abita

MUSTARD SEED ERA OF THE CHURCHES

PRESBYTERIAN: Chronologically, it would appear that the Presbyterian denomination soon after its early establishment in New Orleans, had found fertile ground in Madisonville and Covington. The Reverend Timothy Flint, whom historian Henry Chambers refers to as one of the State's eminent literary sons, arrived in 1822 to serve two churches, in Madisonville and Covington. During his brief stay he has left us with a graphic account of the two places. (1). In 1950 Covington Presbyterian, founded by Reverend Samuel Birch Hall, celebrated its first centenary and is still flourishing along with its neighborhood brethren in Jefferson Ave. Covington.

METHODIST: On August 29, 1834, Lyman Briggs, John McDonald, John Bickham, Judge Ezekiel Parke Ellis, Hezekiah Thompson and John J. Mortee established the first Methodist church in Covington in Gibson Street near New Hampshire. Its site can be identified by two massive live oaks which still survive a fire of forty years ago, and its successor now appears in its impressive modern establishment in Jefferson Avenue.

BAPTIST: For the earliest Baptist organization we shall probably have to go back to Washington Parish, originally St. Tammany, for the records. It is recorded in 1813 there were six Baptist churches in Louisiana - four were in Washington Parish. Today the Baptist establishment in Jefferson Avenue is a fair representation of the progress it stands for in church affairs throughout St. Tammany Parish.

LUTHERAN: While somewhat later in the course of these centennial years the first Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in Abita in January 1900 by persons who long years before had cherished faith. An additional church of a modern character was built by the Covington members in 1929.

EPISCOPAL: At the foot of New Hampshire Street, Covington, there stands enshrined in a haunt of ancient peace, Christ Church Episcopal. Founded during the episcopacy of Bishop Leonidas Polk of Louisiana, and officially chartered in 1848, (C.B. A-2 128, St. Tammany Records), this rugged little edifice still survives firmly in the sturdy native materials from which it was fashioned long over a century ago. It is hoped by many to see it remain a landmark for years to come.

ST. JOSEPH ABBEY: A group of St. Benedict fathers moved from their monastery at Gessen, on the bank of the Natalbany River, in 1902 to their newer location on the Bogue Falaya River about four miles north of Covington. The place originally acquired by them was once known as Cedar Hill, on which was operated one of the earliest water mills in the Parish by Jeremiah Jones Miller. In the 1820's it became the property of James A. Hosmer, in exchange for a house in Dauphine Street and rights to a pew in the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, and was still in the Hosmer family when the Benedictines acquired it. With the diligence of true monks they set to work so earnestly that in September of that year of their arrival they were able to throw their doors open to the first twelve students of a boys preparatory school, among them being the two sons of the late Judge Fred D. King of New Orleans and the great grandsons of Old Colonel Jerry Miller, who swapped a sawmill for a church pew

When ground was first broken the community consisted of ten fathers and ten brothers, headed by the Reverend Abbot Paul Schauble. In a remarkably short time a large monastery and school building was constructed with accommodations for both lay and clerical students, but a tragic fire occurred on November 30, 1907, which cost the life of one of the brothers. The fathers returned to their task of rebuilding with heroic zeal and in less than a year the central unit of what has become a modern educational plant for seminary training to the Priesthood set in the

(1) Recollections, pgs. 305-306

midst of 1500 acres of farm and forest land was ready to be occupied.

In 1910 the Benedictines acquired Dixon Academy in Covington, which became a preparatory school for lay students and which they conducted until 1916, when it was turned over to the Christian Brothers, who have continued to operate it as St. Paul College.

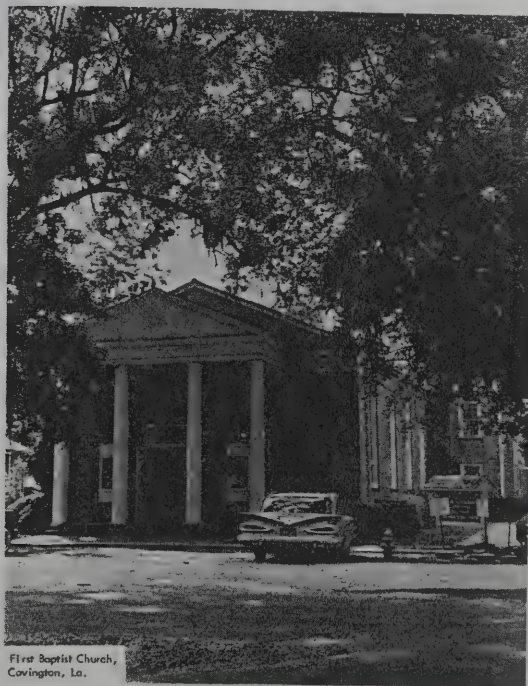
The crowning achievement of Abbot Paul's administration was the completion of the abbey church, one of the most imposing edifices of its kind in this section of the State. Several years ago Abbot Paul passed to his reward, loved and remembered by many throughout this section.

St. Peter Church, Covington, La. This church has a long and varied story. Beginning as a mission back in 1843 on a site in New Hampshire Street, now the residence of the late Harry L. Mackie, it was first served by Father Jounéault and later by Father Plunkett, representing both Madisonville and Covington. In 1849 the tiny Madisonville chapel was replaced by a more pretentious brick building dedicated to St. Francis Xavier at the request of General David B. Morgan and his wife.

In 1850 St. Theresa Church, now Our Lady of the Lake, was founded in Mandeville where previous to those days Abbe Adrien Rouquette ministered to white and redskins alike, wherever he found them between Chinchuba and Bon Fouca.



Present St. Peter Church,
Covington, La.





A surviving example of sturdy home construction in Covington dating back to the 1830's. Former residence of Judge Ezekial Pike Ellis, an ancestor of Honorable Stephen F. Ellis, District Judge of St. Tammany, and Frank Burton Ellis, U.S. District Judge, New Orleans.

Pass on the torch, pass on the flame,

Remember whence the glory came.

And eyes are watching as you run

Beyond the setting of the sun.

(Author unknown)

The End



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